

# BATMAN KNIGHTFALL



25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY EDITION • VOLUME 1







# BATMAN KNIGHTFALL

25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY EDITION • VOLUME 1







# BATMAN KNIGHTFALL

25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY EDITION • VOLUME 1

**DOUG MOENCH CHUCK DIXON**

writers

**GRAHAM NOLAN JIM APARO  
NORM BREYFOGLE JIM VALENT**

pencillers

**SCOTT HANNA TOM MANDRAKE BOB WIACEK  
JOSEF RUBINSTEIN DICK GIORDANO**

inkers

**ADRIENNE ROY**

colorist

**RICHARD STARKINGS  
TIM HARKINS JOHN COSTANZA**

letterers

**KELLEY JONES and ALLEN PASSALAGUA**

collection cover artists

BATMAN created by  
**BOB KANE** with **BILL FINGER**

BANE created by  
**CHUCK DIXON, DOUG MOENCH** and **GRAHAM NOLAN**



**DENNIS O'NEIL** Editor – Original Series

**SCOTT PETERSON** **JORDAN B. GORFINKEL** Assistant Editors – Original Series

**JEB WOODARD** Group Editor – Collected Editions

**ERIC SEARLEMAN** Editor – Collected Edition

**STEVE COOK** Design Director – Books

**CURTIS KING JR.** Publication Design

**BOB HARRAS** Senior VP – Editor-in-Chief, DC Comics

**PAT McCALLUM** Executive Editor, DC Comics

**DIANE NELSON** President

**DAN DIDIO** Publisher

**JIM LEE** Publisher

**GEOFF JOHNS** President & Chief Creative Officer

**AMIT DESAI** Executive VP – Business & Marketing Strategy,  
Direct to Consumer & Global Franchise Management

**SAM ADES** Senior VP & General Manager, Digital Services

**BOBBIE CHASE** VP & Executive Editor, Young Reader & Talent Development

**MARK CHIARELLO** Senior VP – Art, Design & Collected Editions

**JOHN CUNNINGHAM** Senior VP – Sales & Trade Marketing

**ANNE DePIES** Senior VP – Business Strategy, Finance & Administration

**DON FALLETTI** VP – Manufacturing Operations

**LAWRENCE GANEM** VP – Editorial Administration & Talent Relations

**ALISON GILL** Senior VP – Manufacturing & Operations

**HANK KANALZ** Senior VP – Editorial Strategy & Administration

**JAY KOGAN** VP – Legal Affairs

**JACK MAHAN** VP – Business Affairs

**NICK J. NAPOLITANO** VP – Manufacturing Administration

**EDDIE SCANNELL** VP – Consumer Marketing

**COURTNEY SIMMONS** Senior VP – Publicity & Communications

**JIM (SKI) SOKOLOWSKI** VP – Comic Book Specialty Sales & Trade Marketing

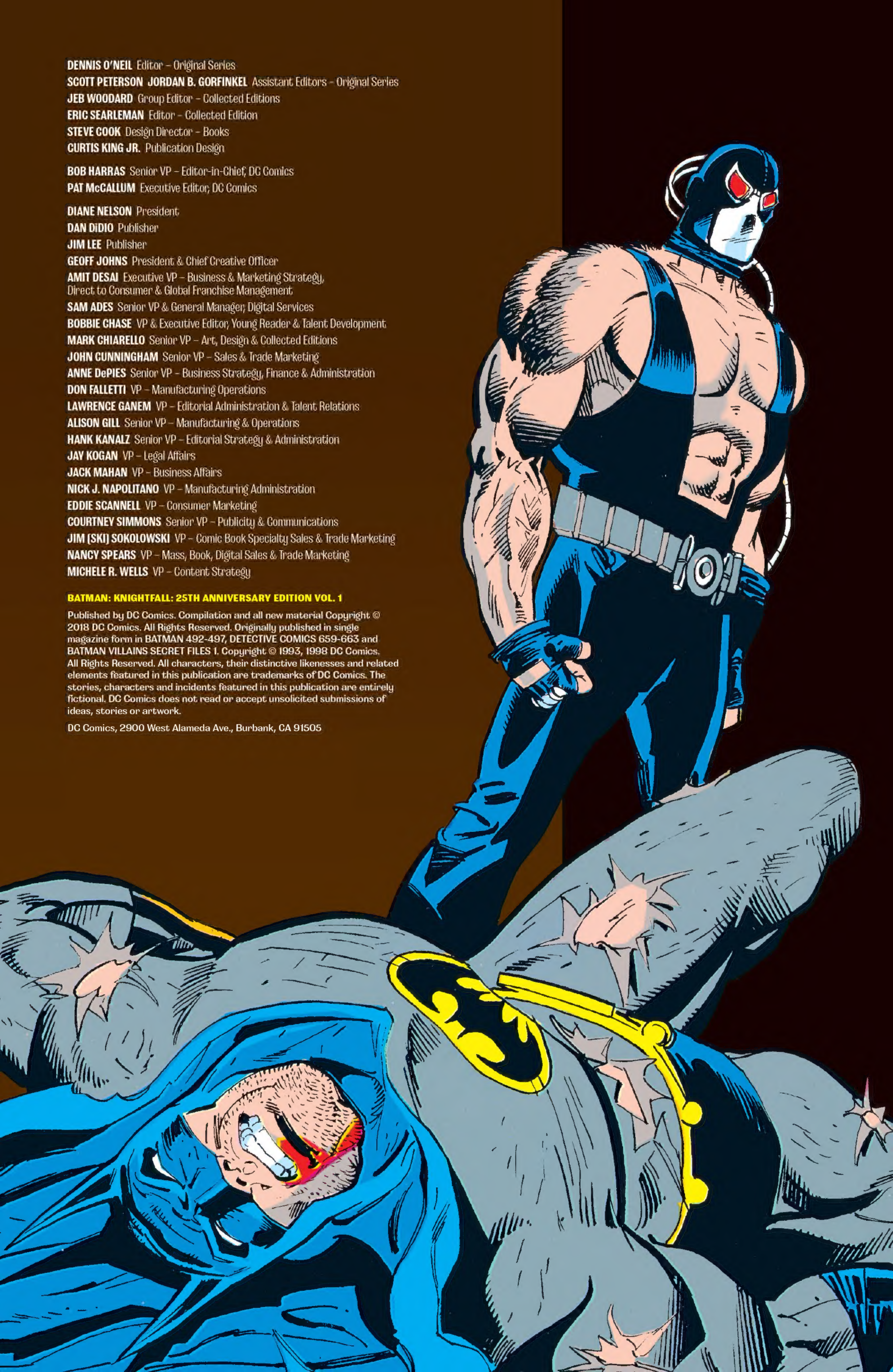
**NANCY SPEARS** VP – Mass, Book, Digital Sales & Trade Marketing

**MICHELE R. WELLS** VP – Content Strategy

#### **BATMAN: KNIGHTFALL: 25TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION VOL. 1**

Published by DC Comics. Compilation and all new material Copyright © 2018 DC Comics. All Rights Reserved. Originally published in single magazine form in **BATMAN** 492-497, **DETECTIVE COMICS** 659-663 and **BATMAN VILLAINS SECRET FILES** 1. Copyright © 1993, 1998 DC Comics. All Rights Reserved. All characters, their distinctive likenesses and related elements featured in this publication are trademarks of DC Comics. The stories, characters and incidents featured in this publication are entirely fictional. DC Comics does not read or accept unsolicited submissions of ideas, stories or artwork.

DC Comics, 2900 West Alameda Ave., Burbank, CA 91505







BATMAN

492  
EARLY  
MAY 93

APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE  
AUTHORITY

KNIGHTFALL



# BATMAN

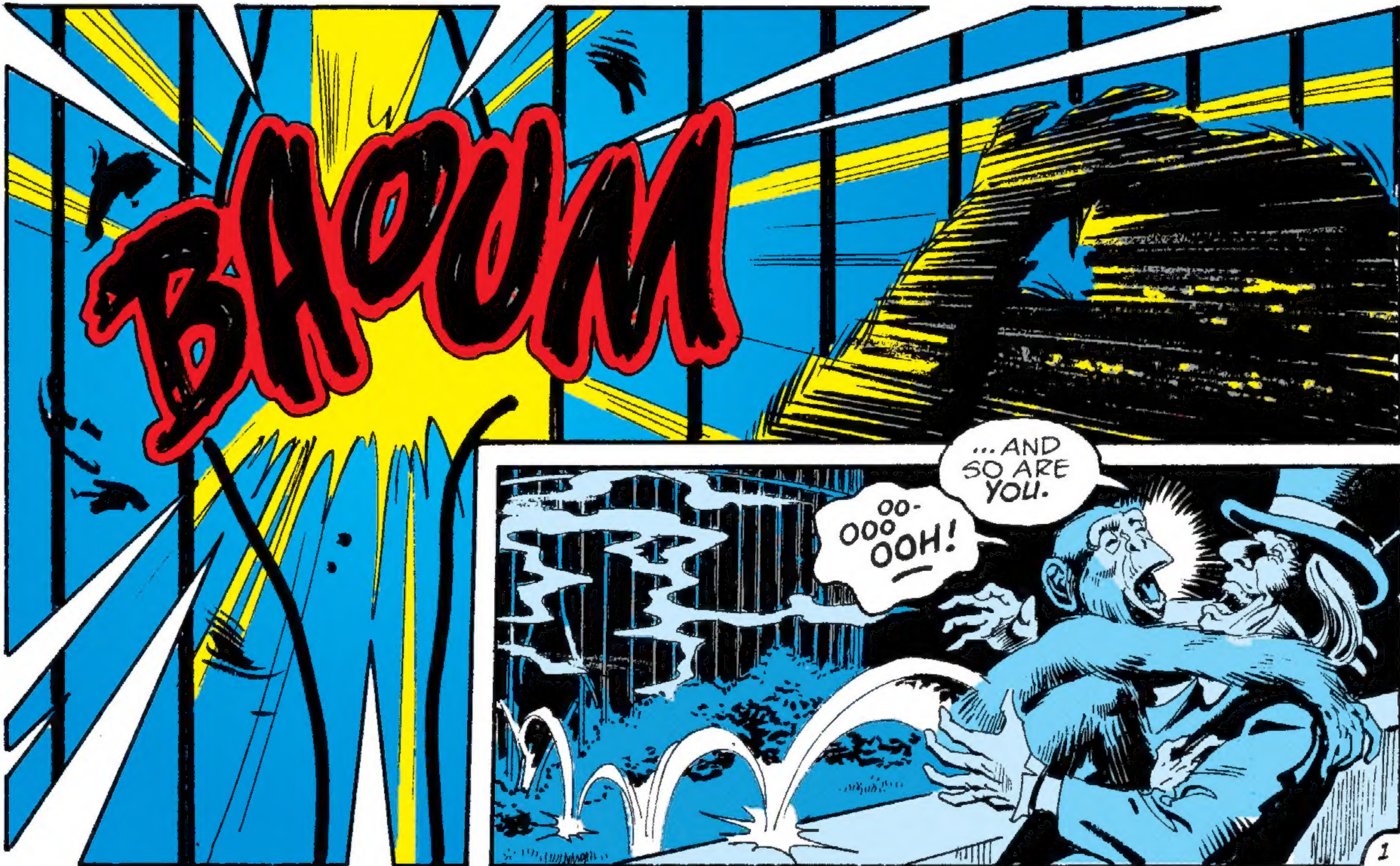
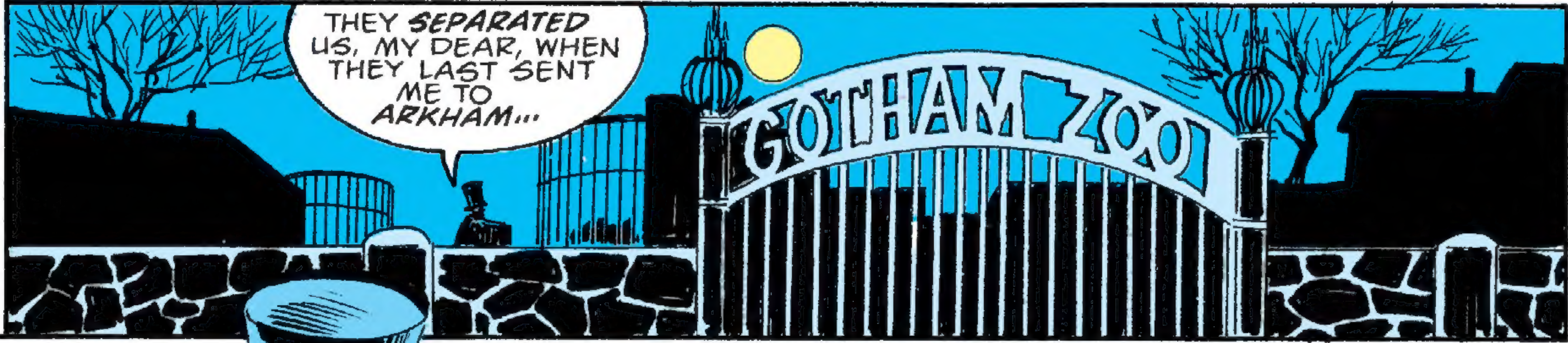




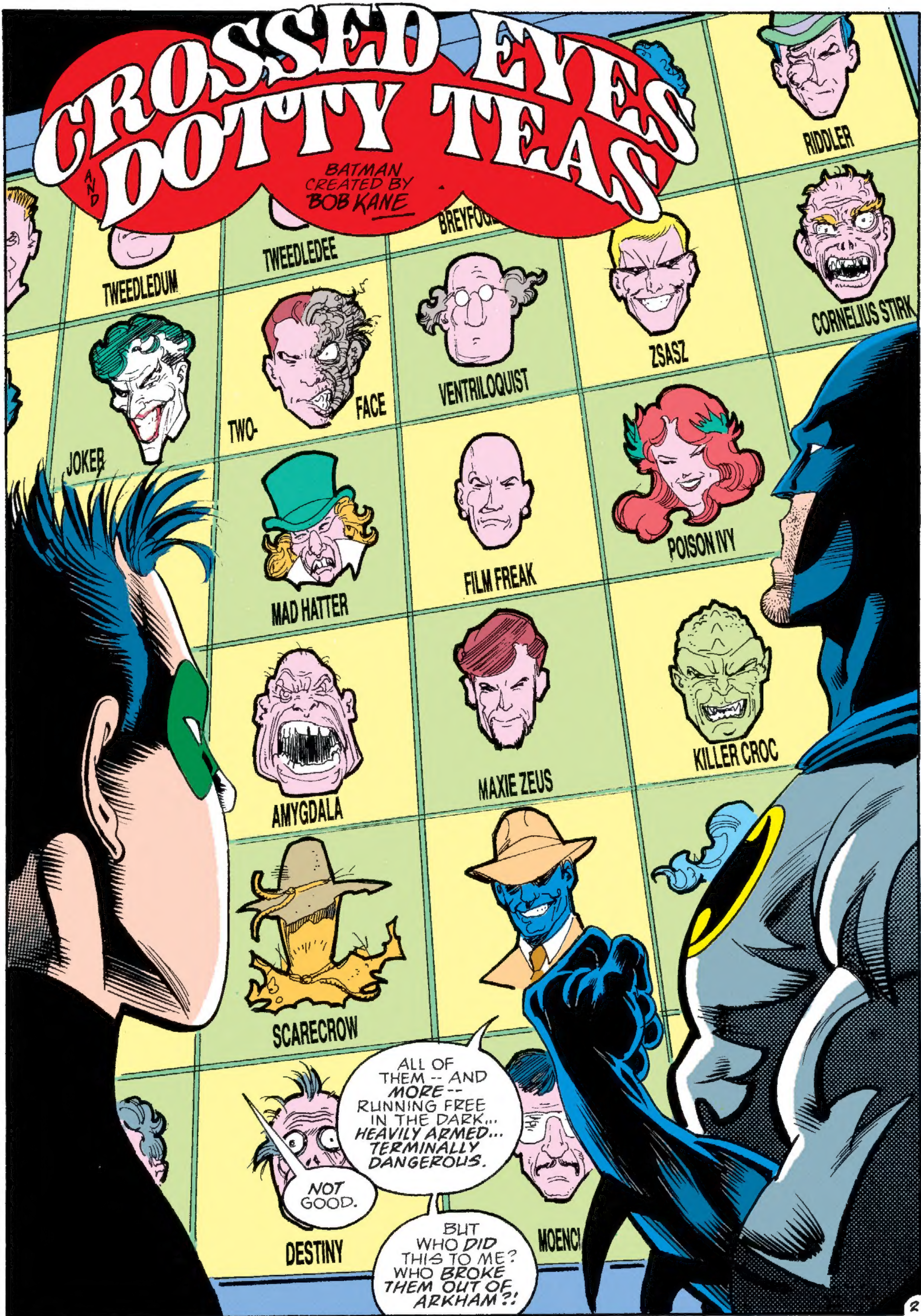


Cover art by  
**KELLEY JONES**









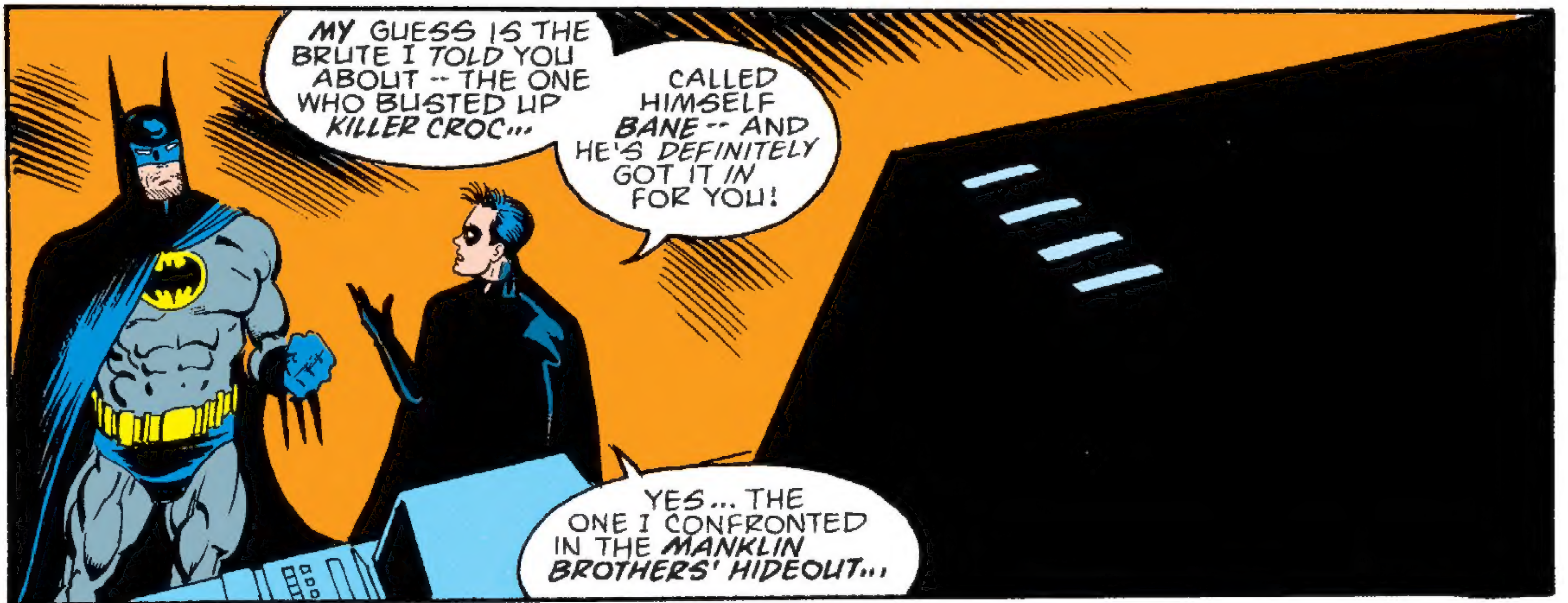
DOUG MOENCH  
WRITER

NORM BREYFOGLE  
ARTIST

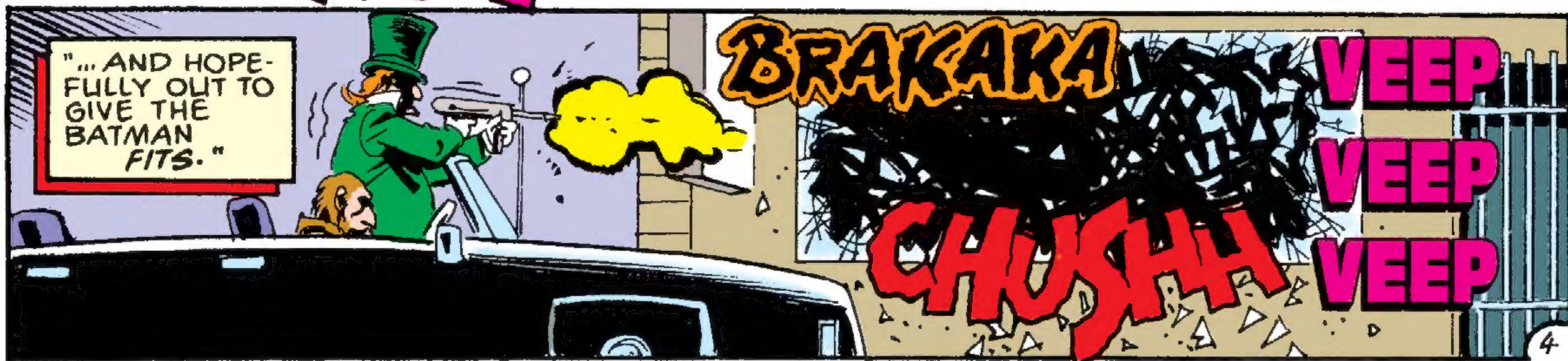
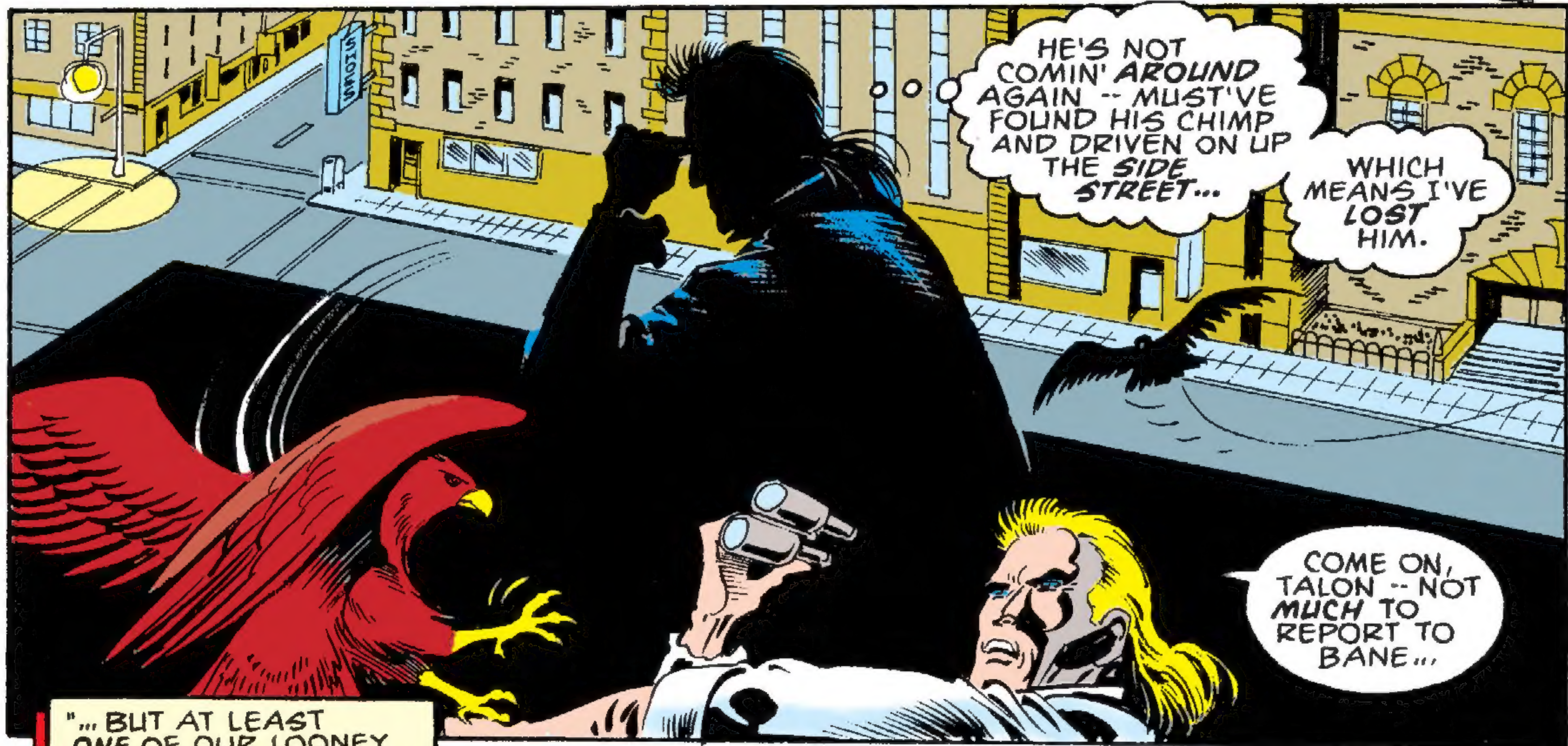
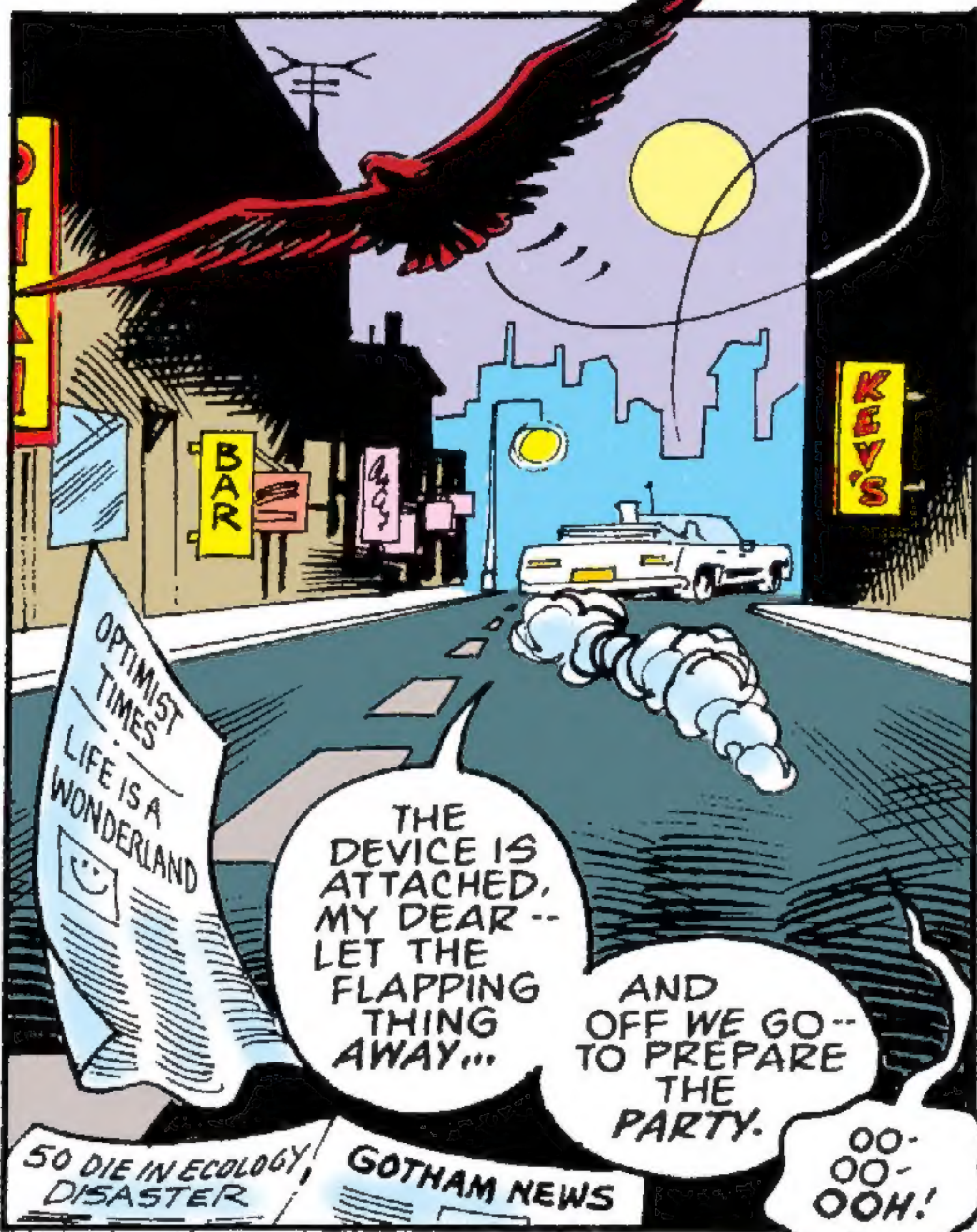
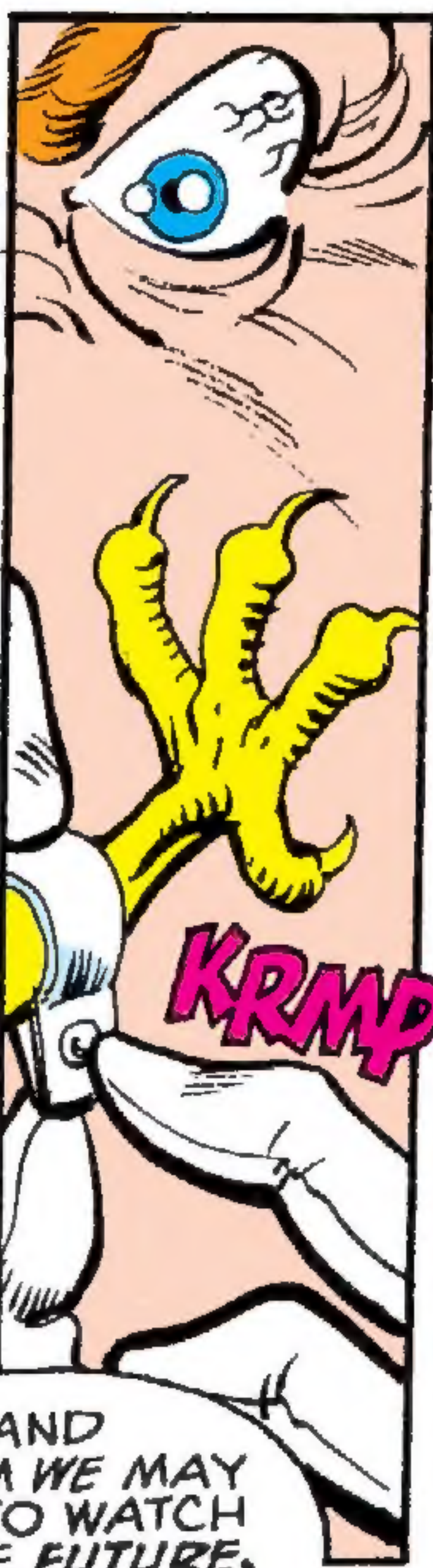
ADRIENNE ROY COLORIST  
RICHARD STARKINGS LETTERER

SCOTT PETERSON DENNY O'NEIL  
JORDAN B. GORFINKEL EDITOR  
ASST EDITORS

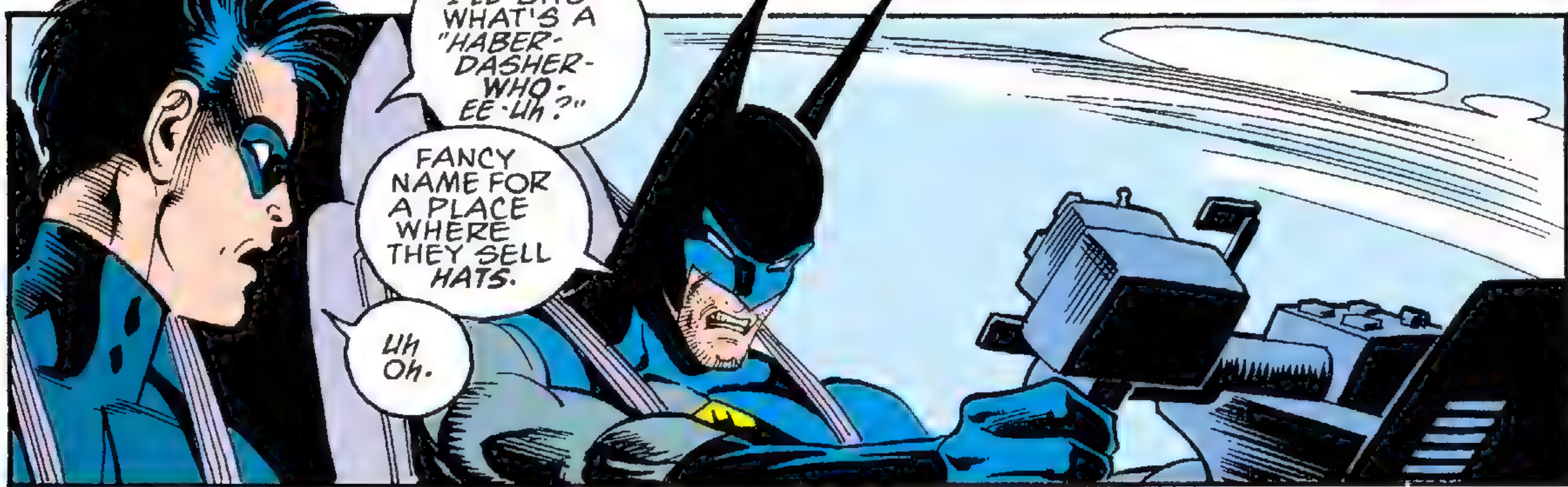
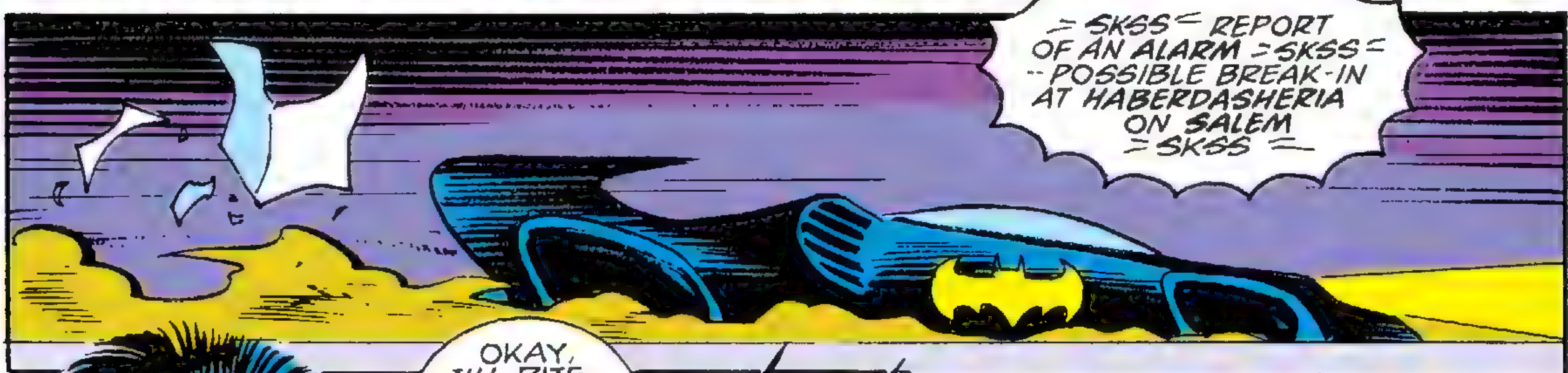
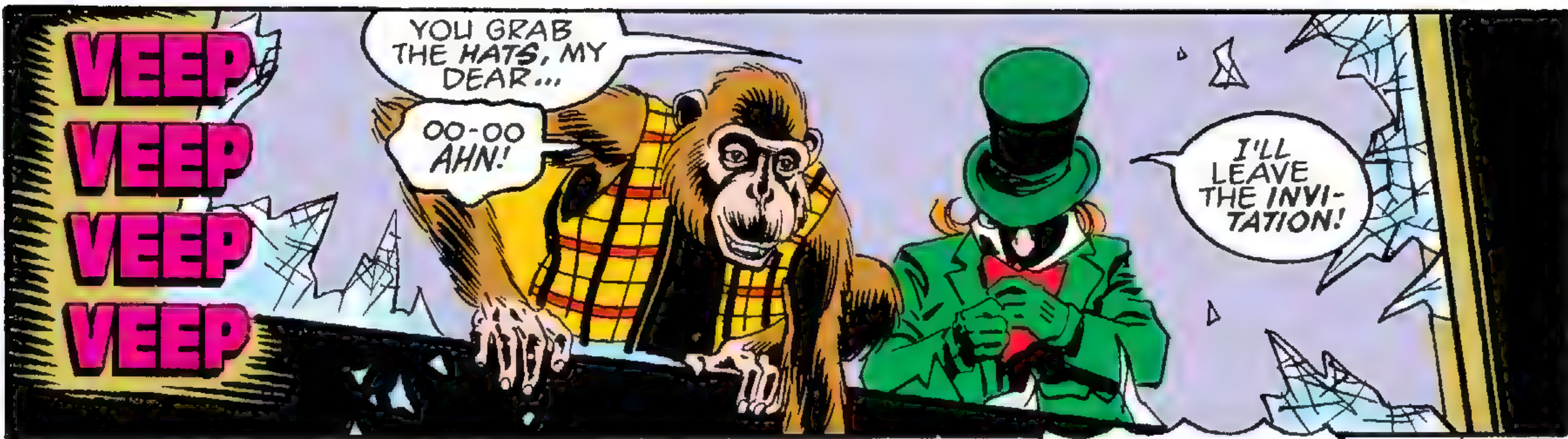




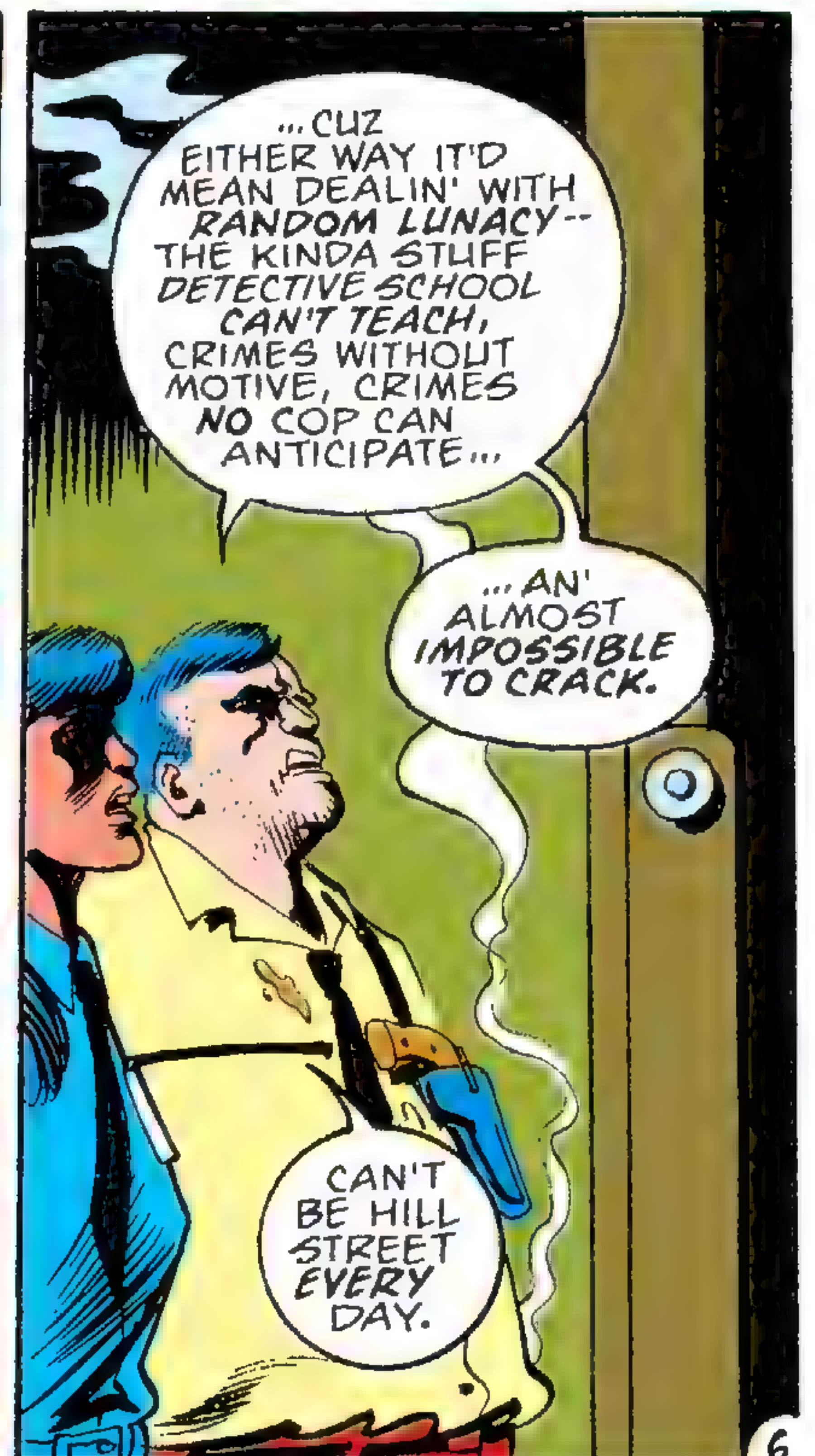
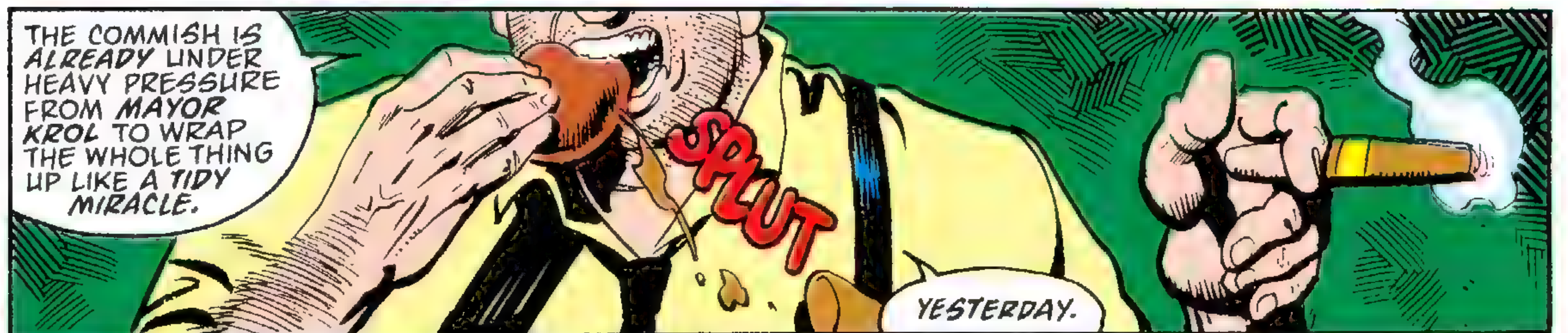




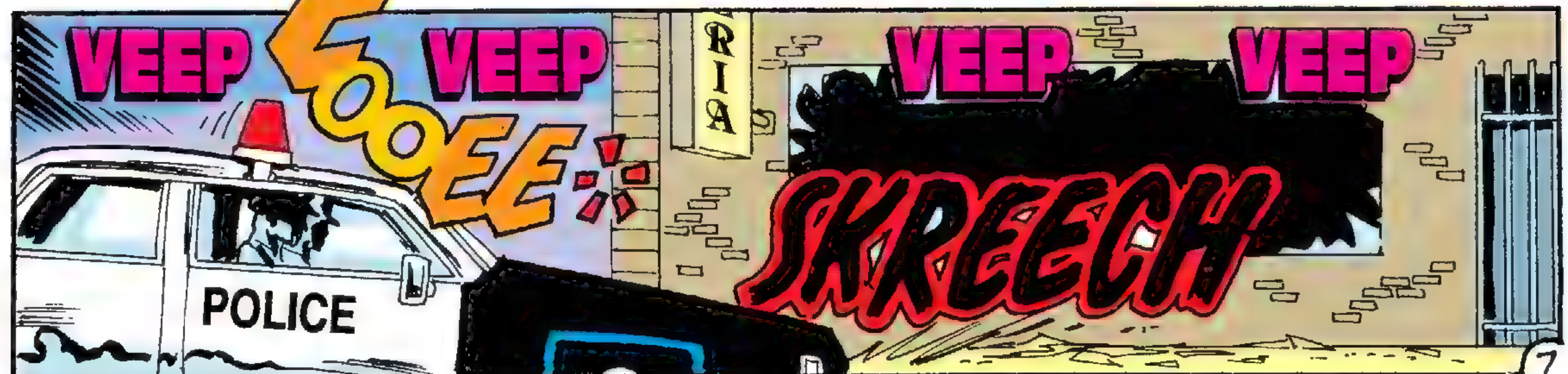
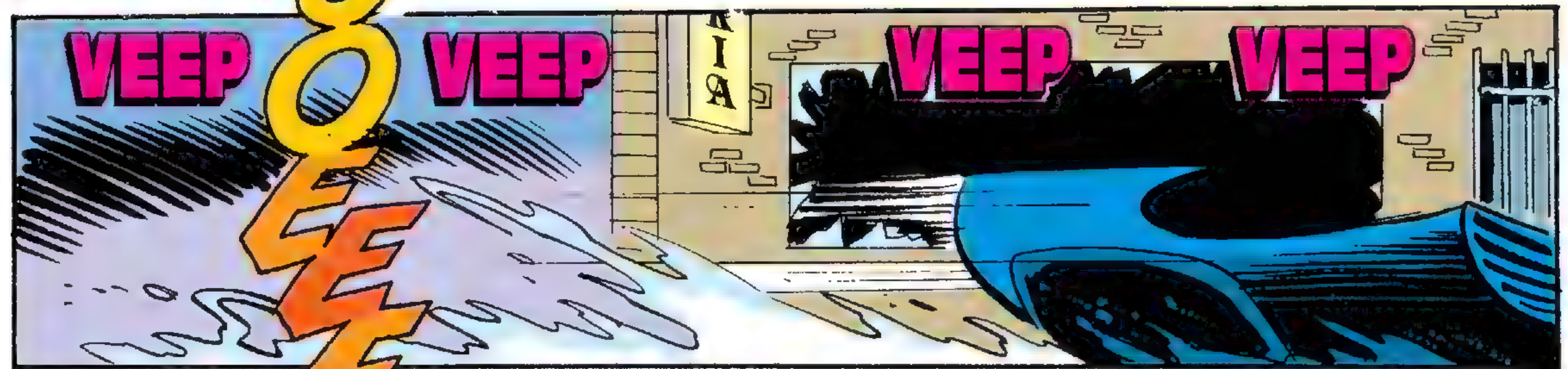
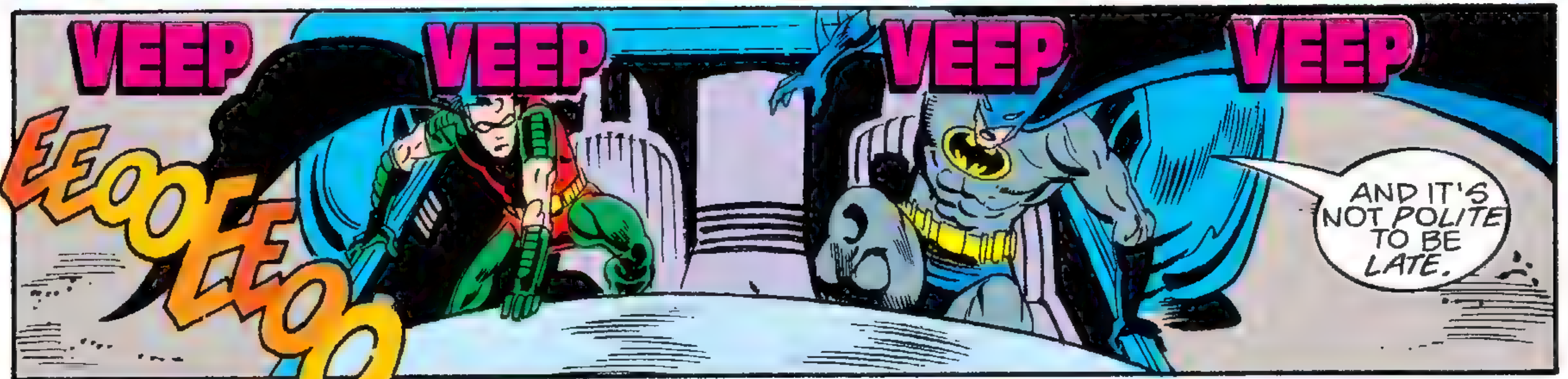
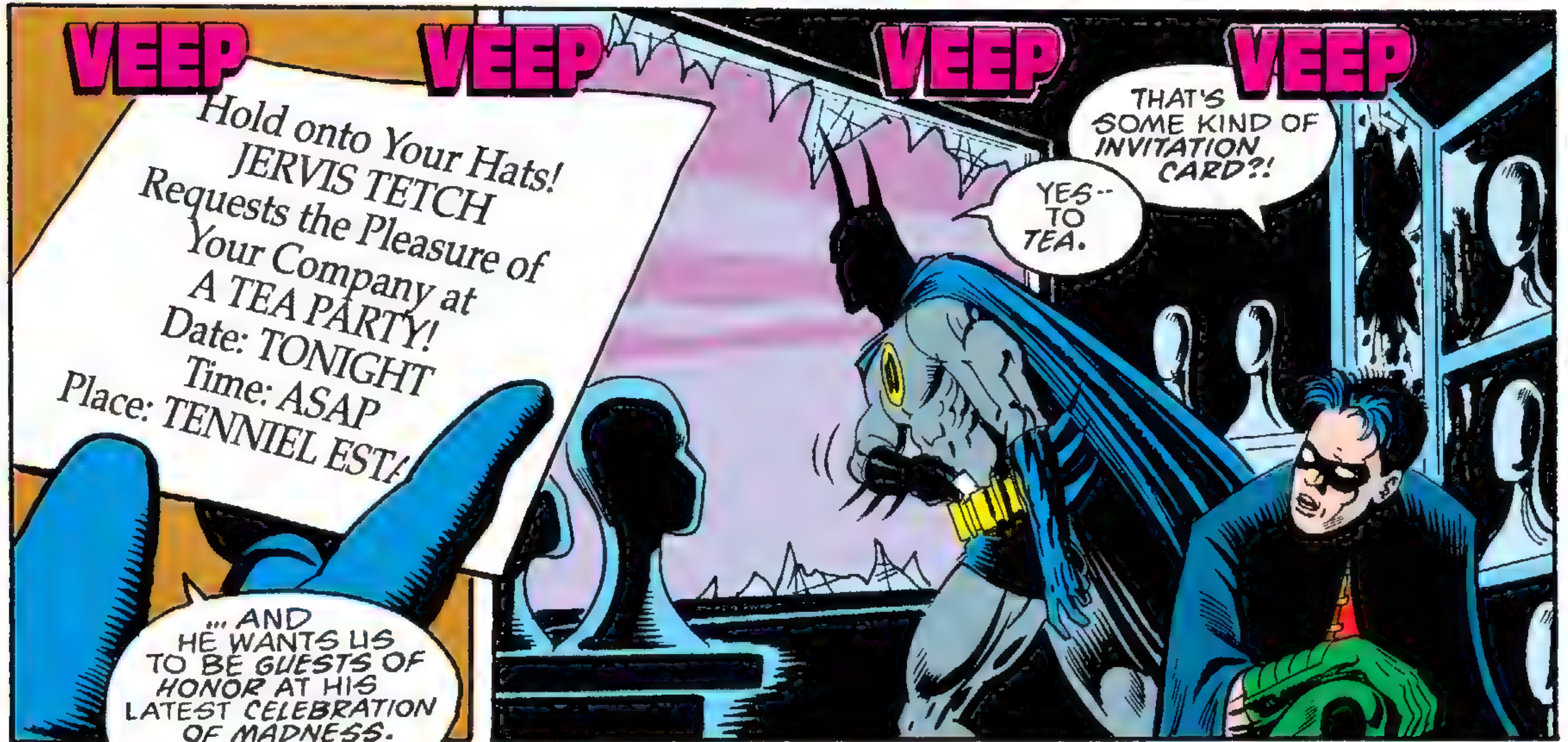
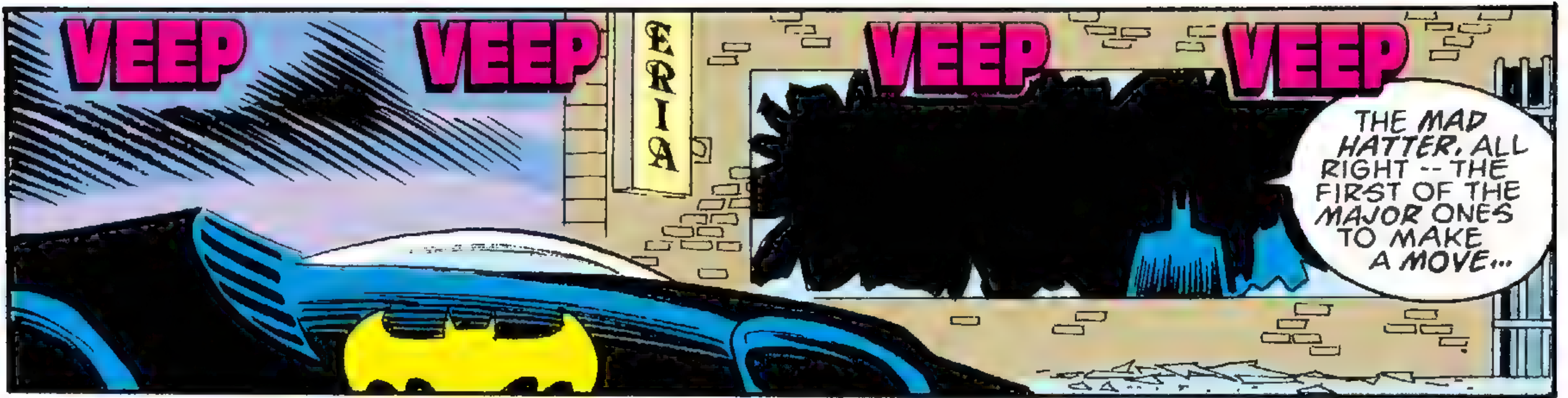








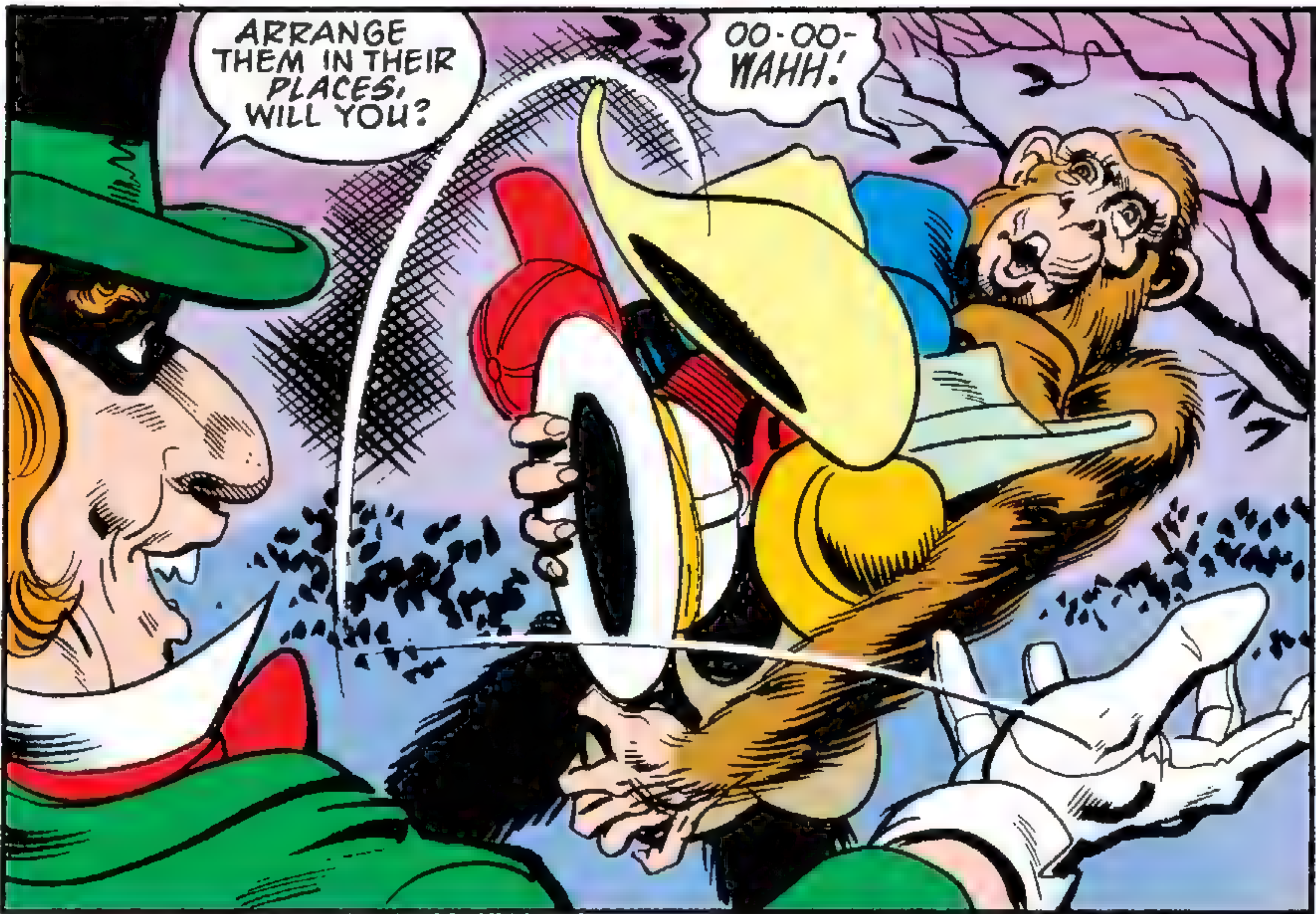






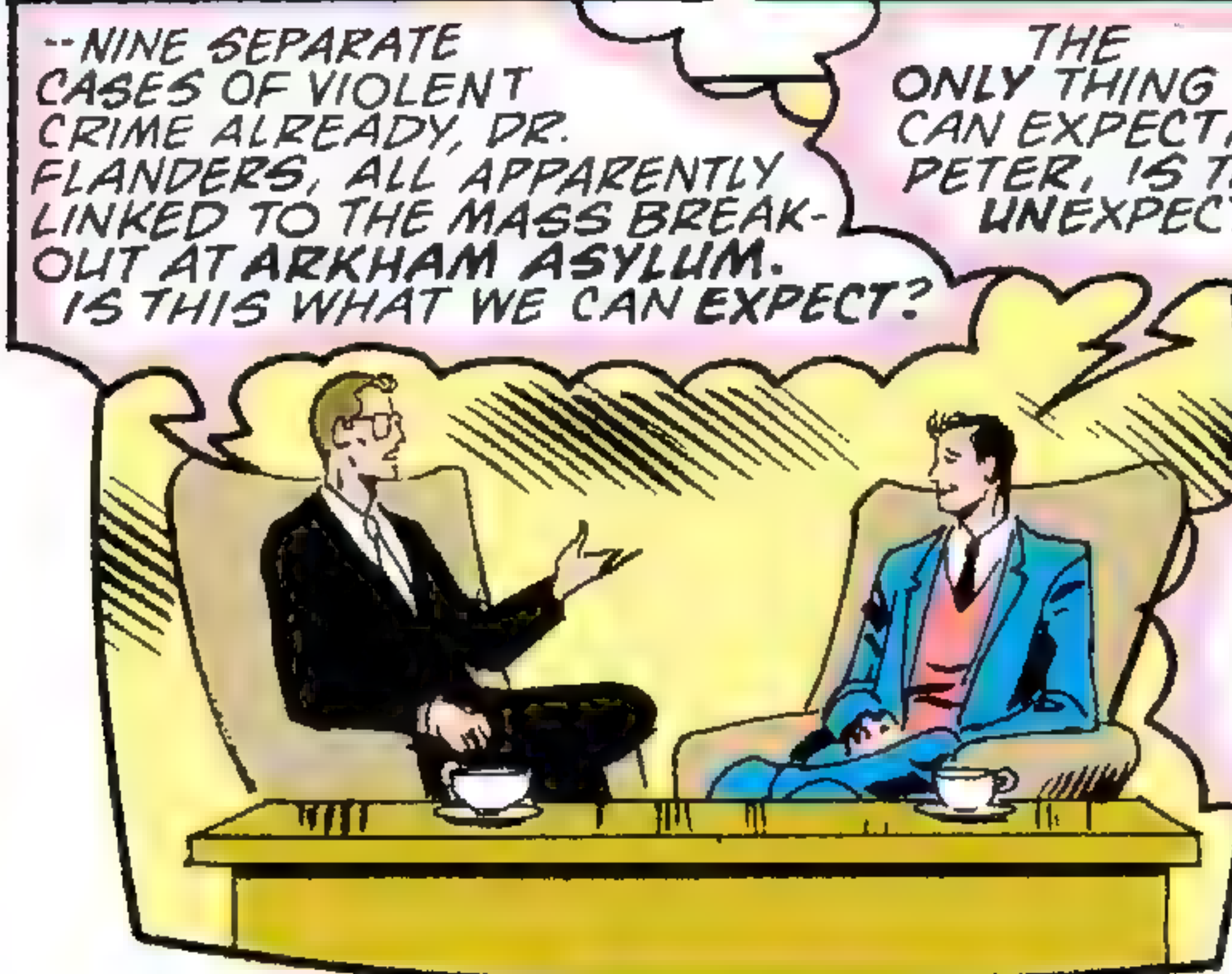


HERE WE GO, MY DEAR -- THE LAST HAT IS DONE...



ARRANGE THEM IN THEIR PLACES, WILL YOU?

OO-OO-WAHH!



--NINE SEPARATE CASES OF VIOLENT CRIME ALREADY, DR. FLANDERS, ALL APPARENTLY LINKED TO THE MASS BREAK-OUT AT ARKHAM ASYLUM. IS THIS WHAT WE CAN EXPECT?

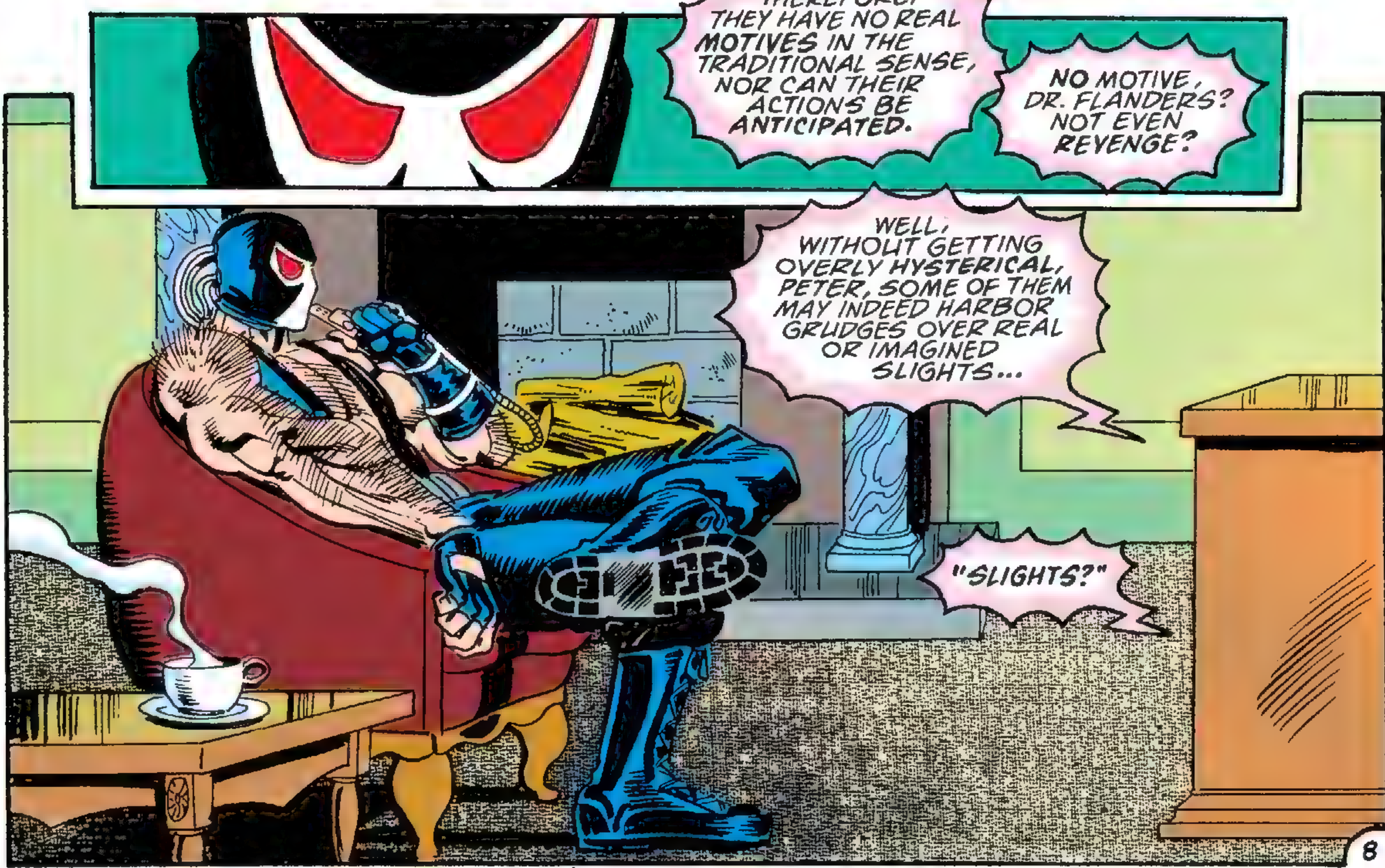
THE ONLY THING WE CAN EXPECT, PETER, IS THE UNEXPECTED...

RIGHT NOW, YOU SEE, THESE MENTALLY DIVERGENT PATIENTS ARE EXTREMELY DISORIENTED AND ALIENATED...



THEREFORE, THEY HAVE NO REAL MOTIVES IN THE TRADITIONAL SENSE, NOR CAN THEIR ACTIONS BE ANTICIPATED.

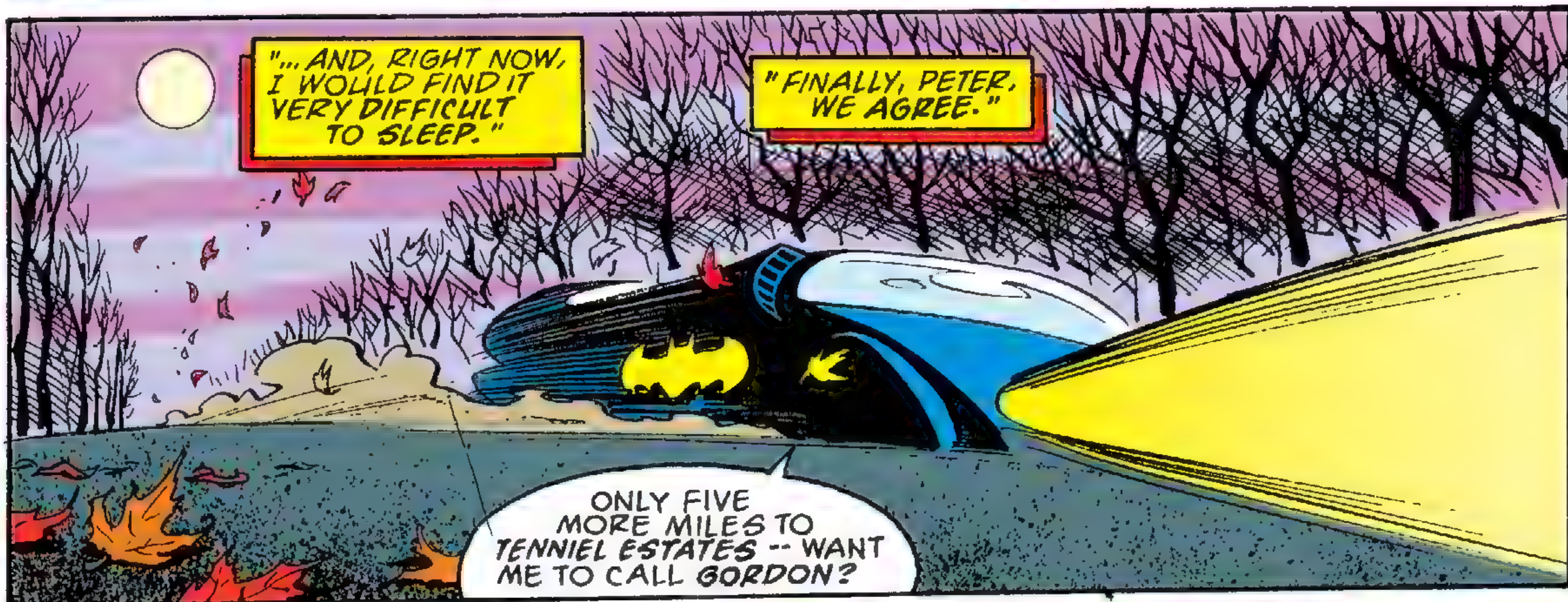
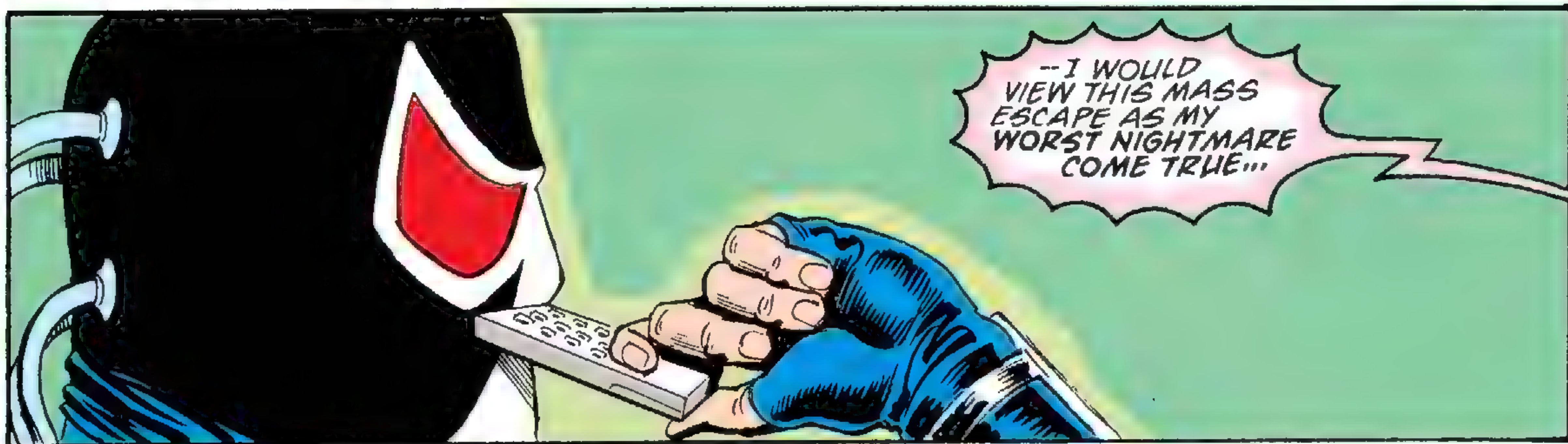
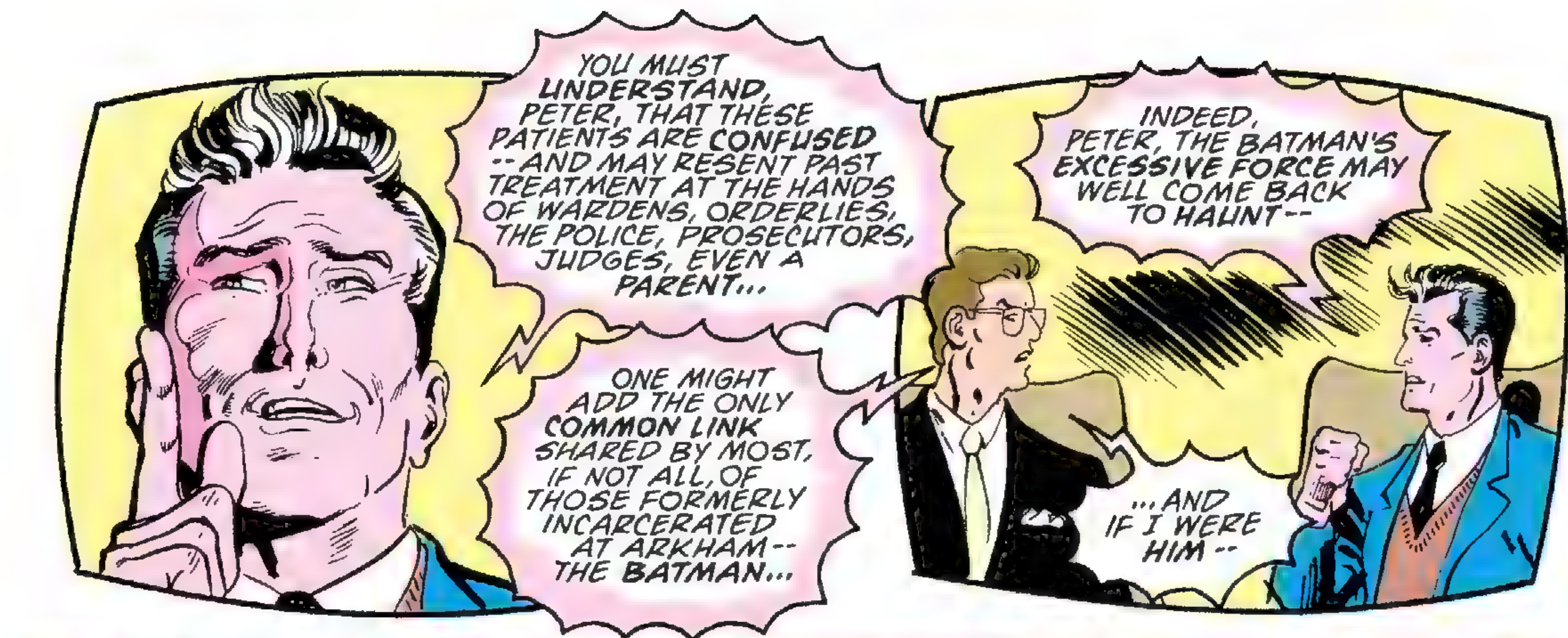
NO MOTIVE, DR. FLANDERS? NOT EVEN REVENGE?



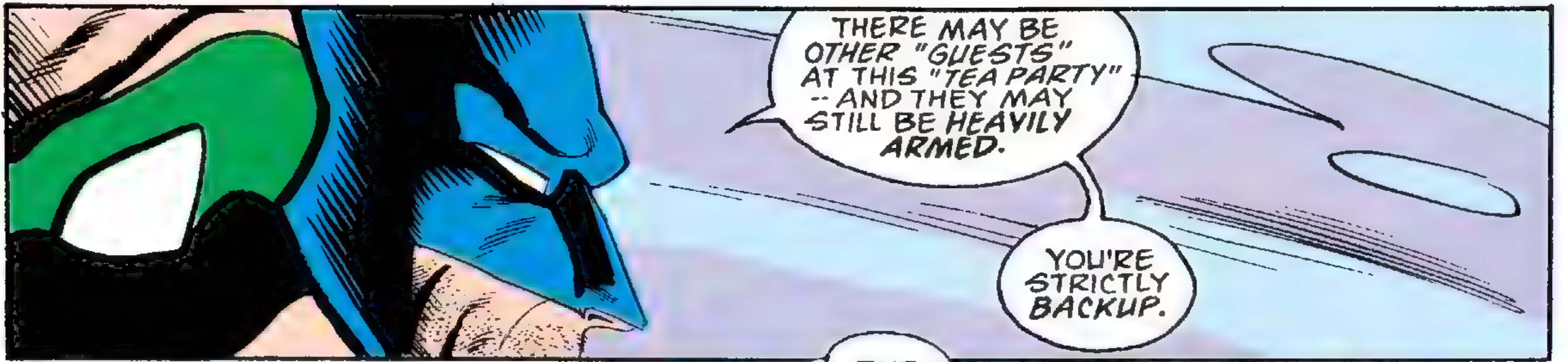
WELL, WITHOUT GETTING OVERLY HYSTERICAL, PETER, SOME OF THEM MAY INDEED HARBOR GRUDGES OVER REAL OR IMAGINED SLIGHTS...

"SLIGHTS?"

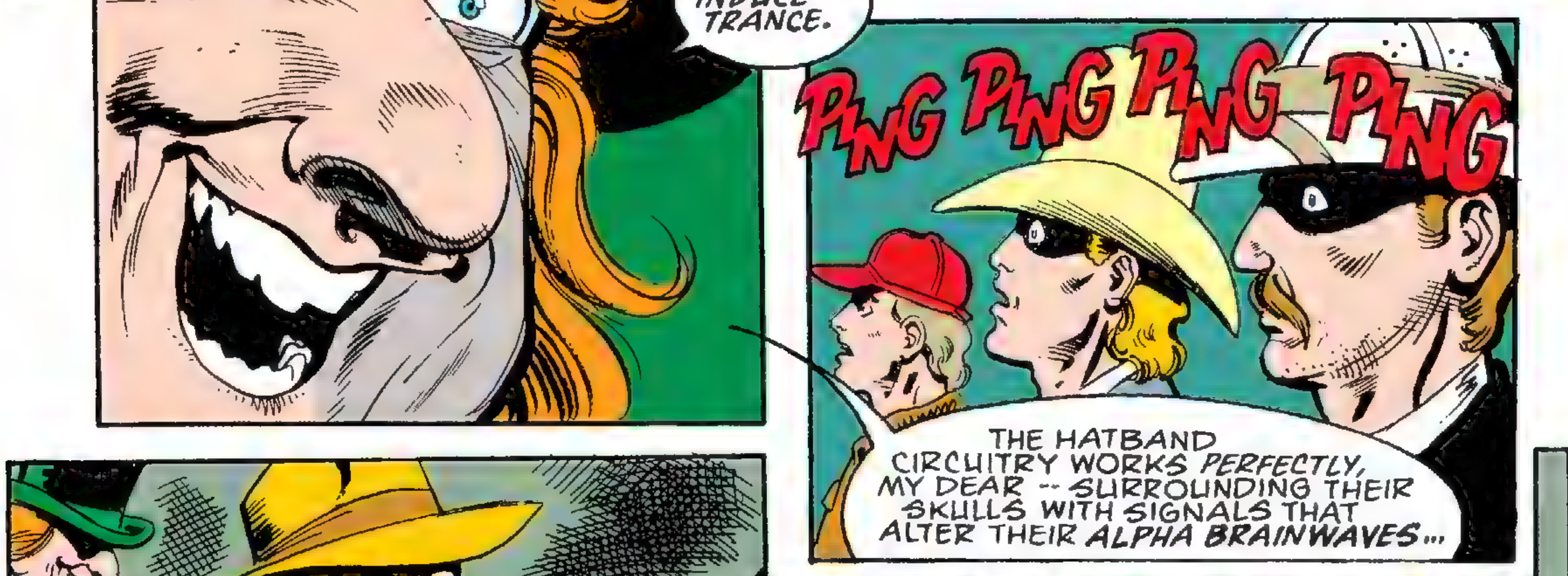




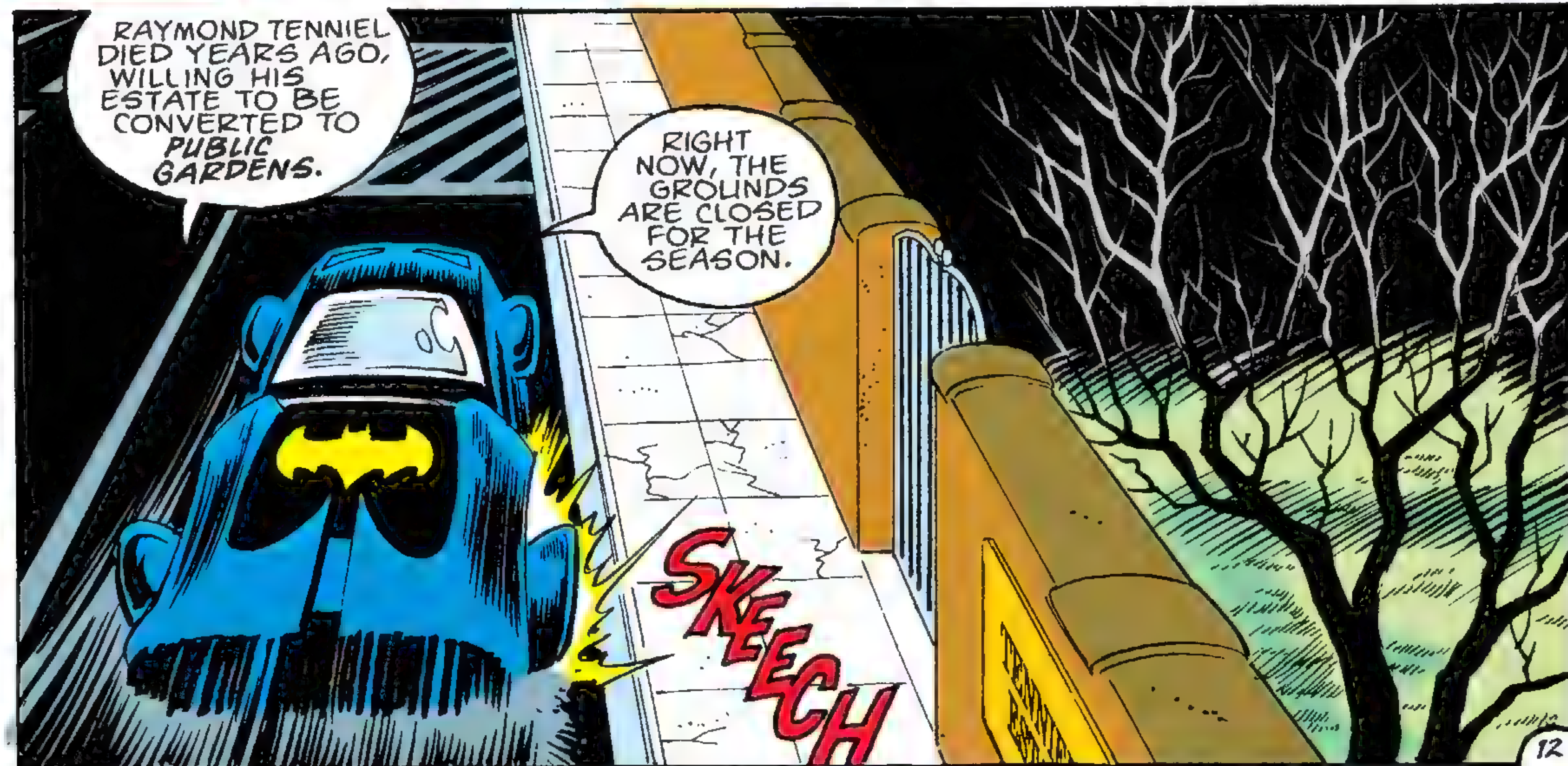
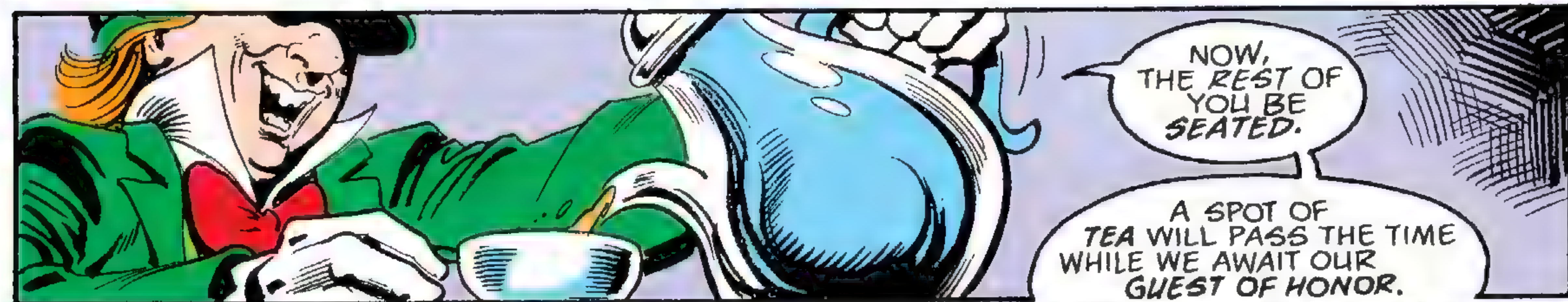




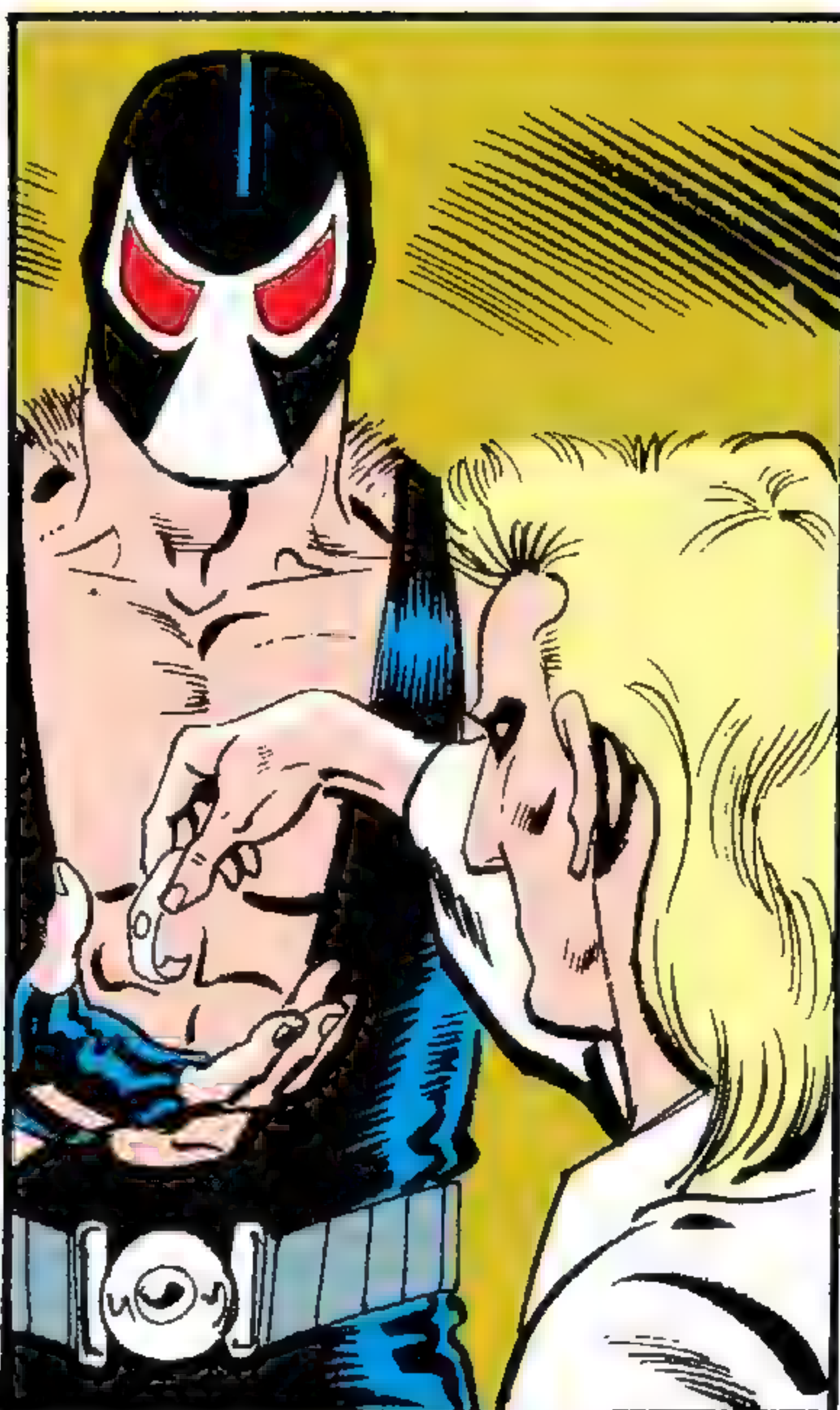
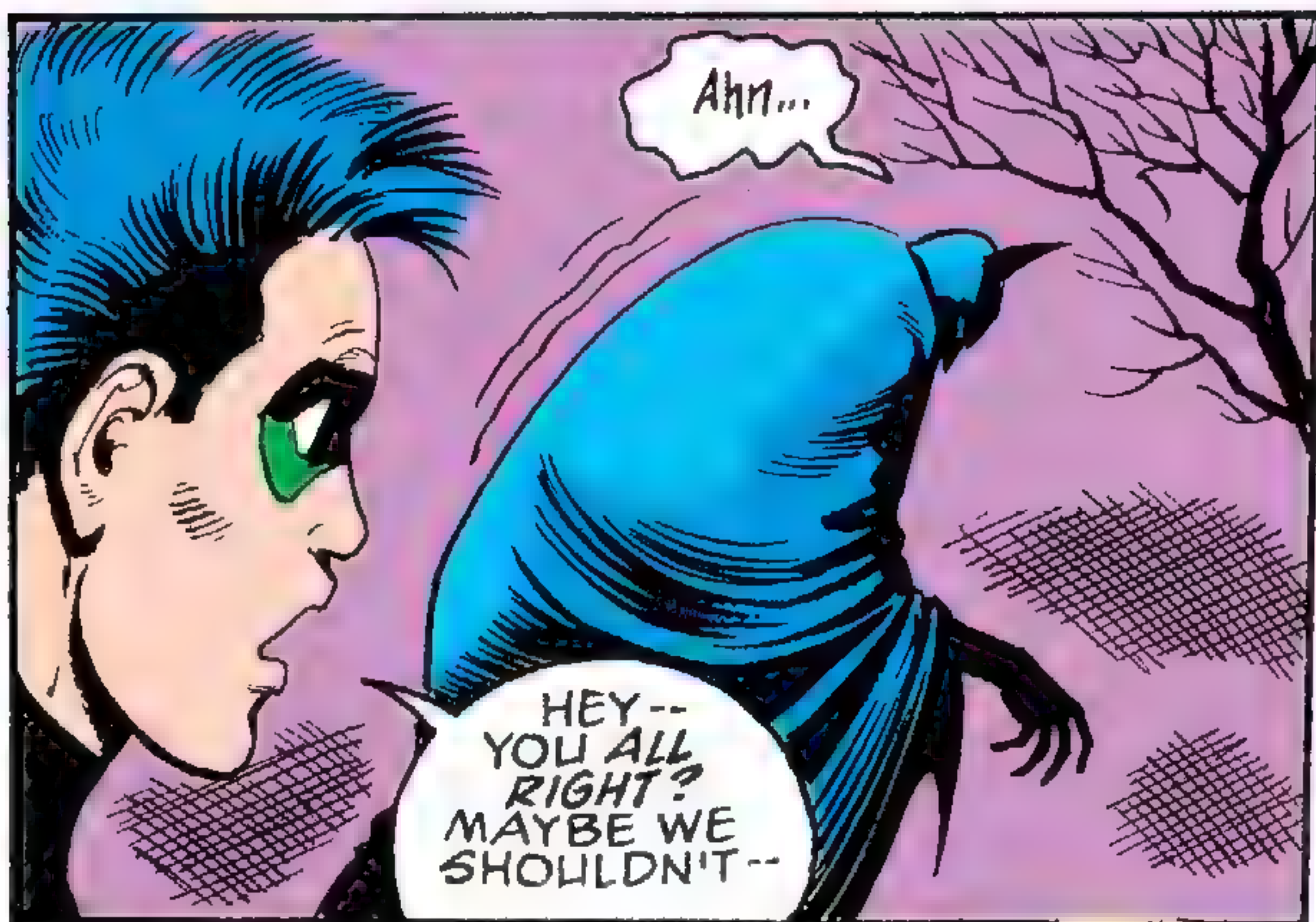
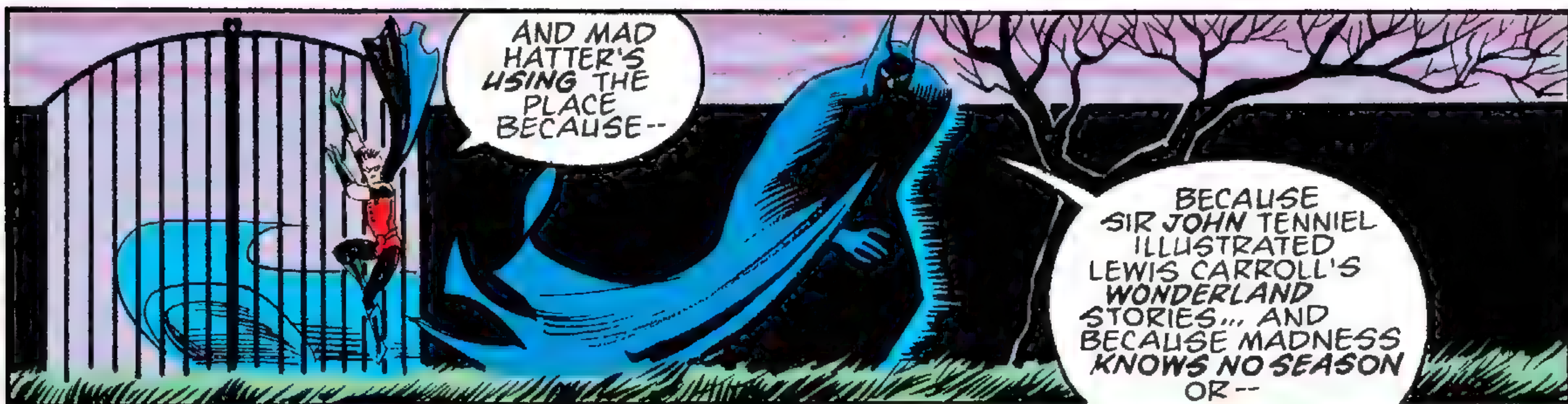
















HOMING SIGNAL  
JUST CUT OUT,  
HATTER... AT  
NORTHPOINT  
AND  
NINTH...

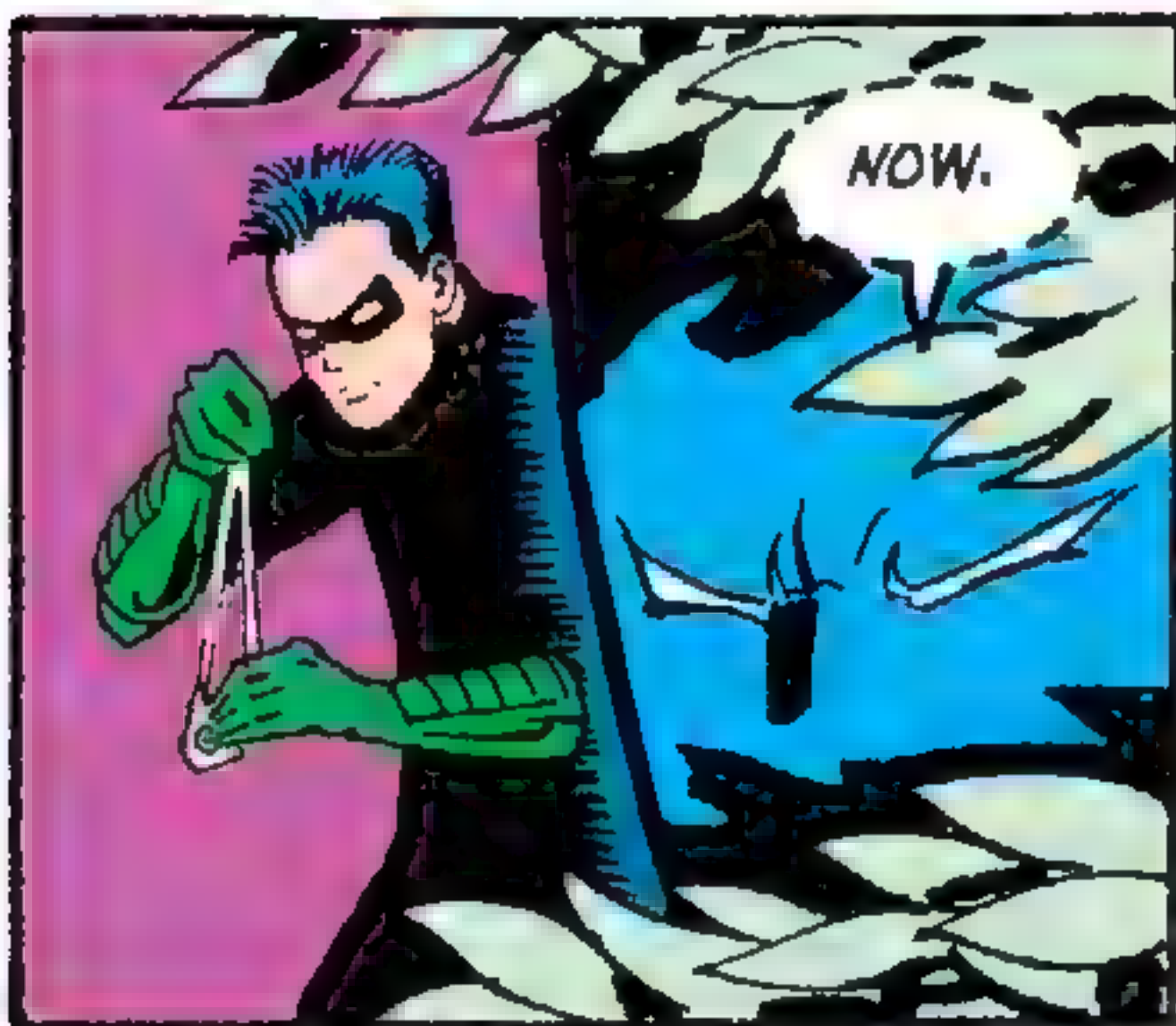


THERE'S A  
HOTEL HERE. I'M  
GOING TO TRY  
THE SERVICE  
ENTRANCE IN  
THE ALLEY...

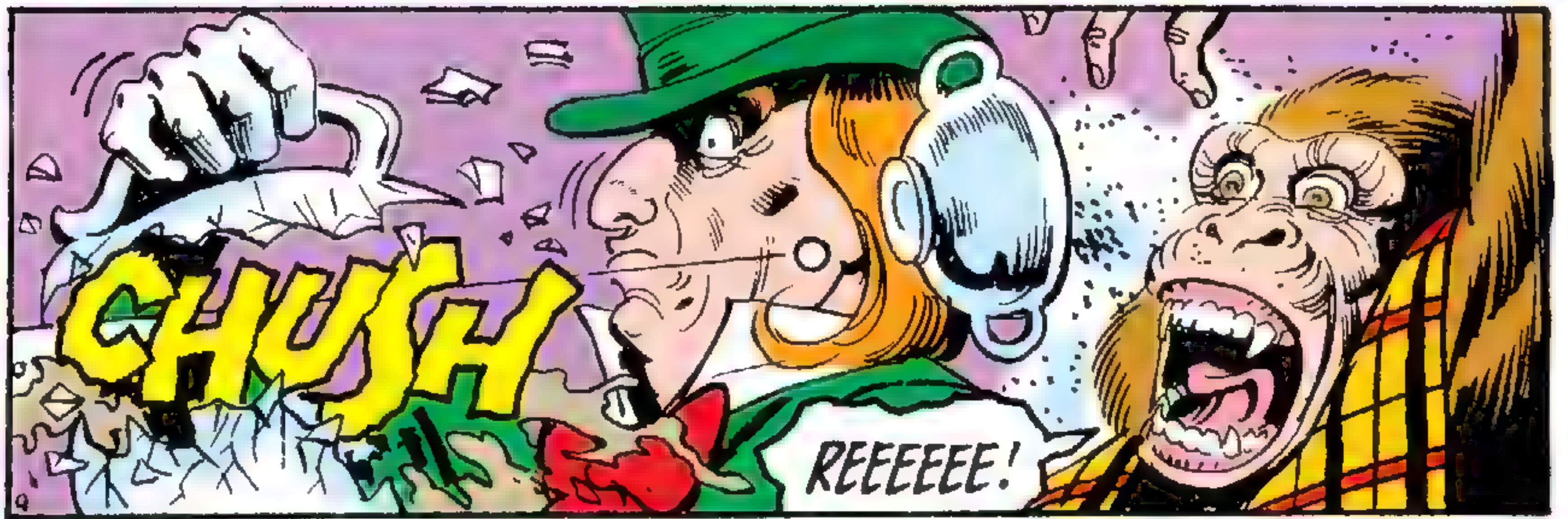
YOU  
DO THAT,  
FREAKIE-  
BOY.

ANYONE  
FOR MORE  
TEA?

OO-  
OO-AHN!

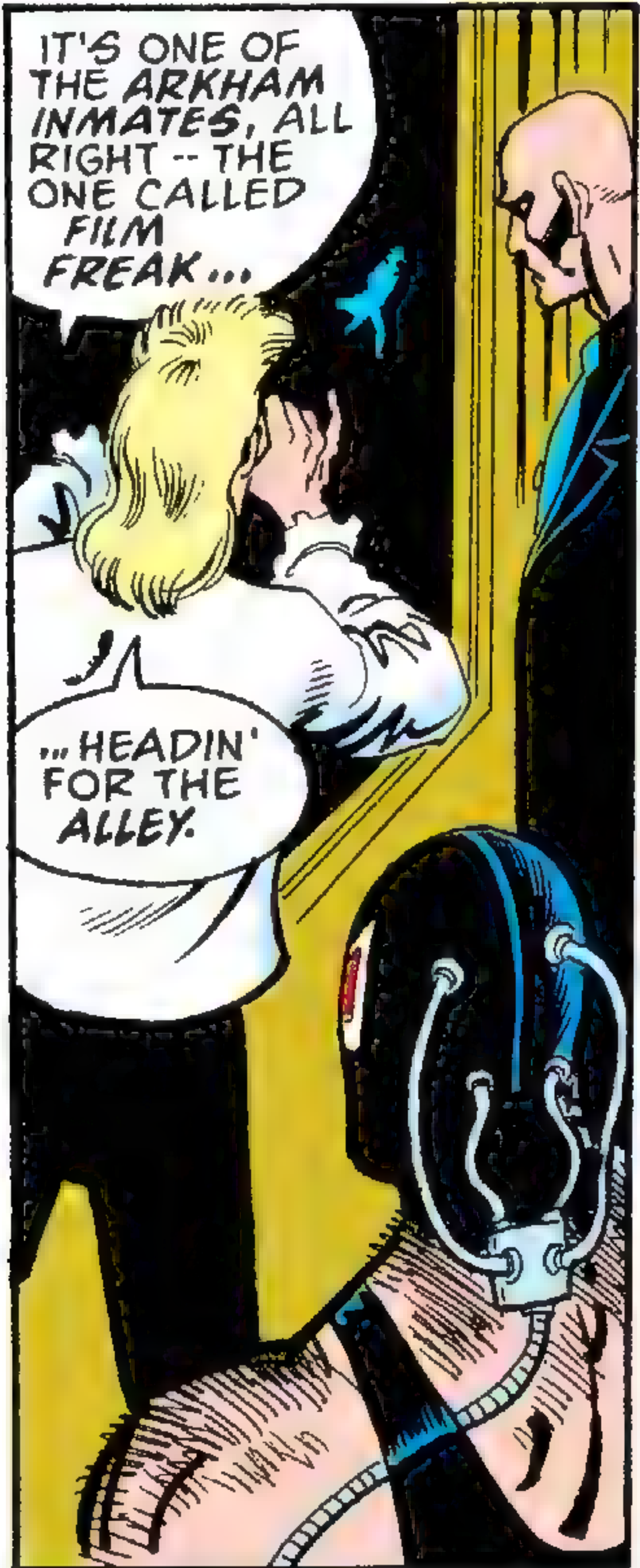


NOW.



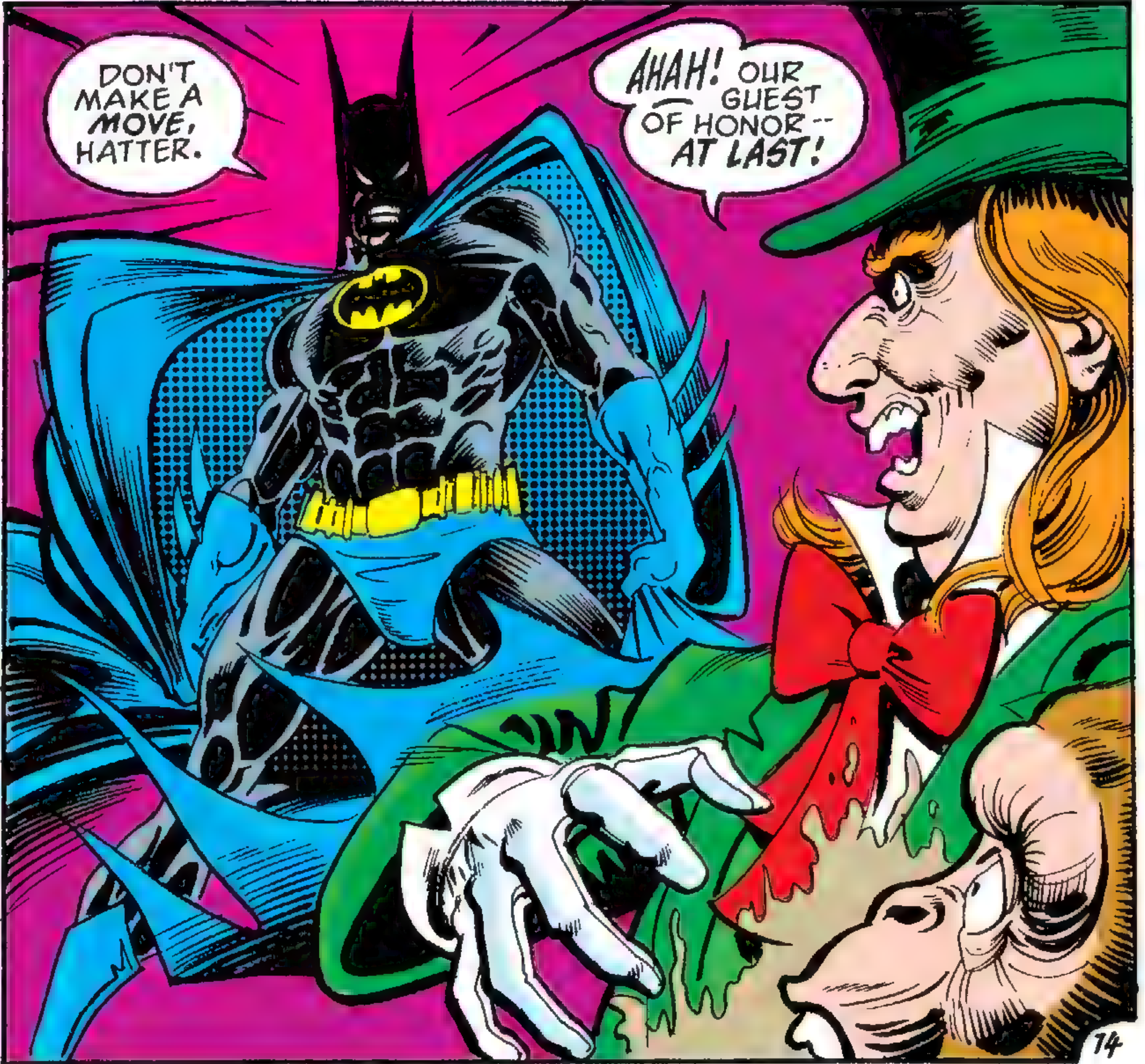
CHUSH

REEEEEE!



IT'S ONE OF  
THE ARKHAM  
INMATES, ALL  
RIGHT -- THE  
ONE CALLED  
FILM  
FREAK...

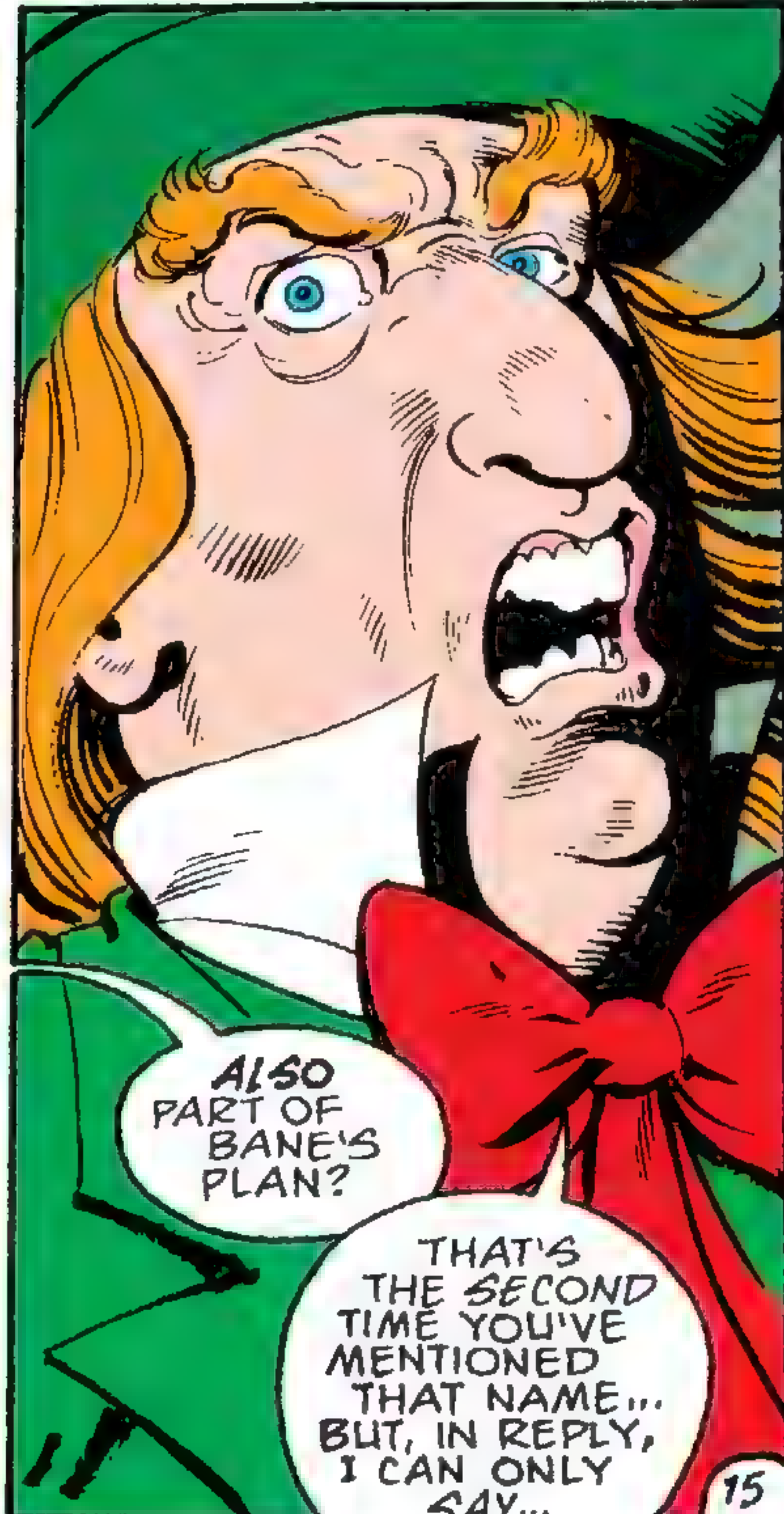
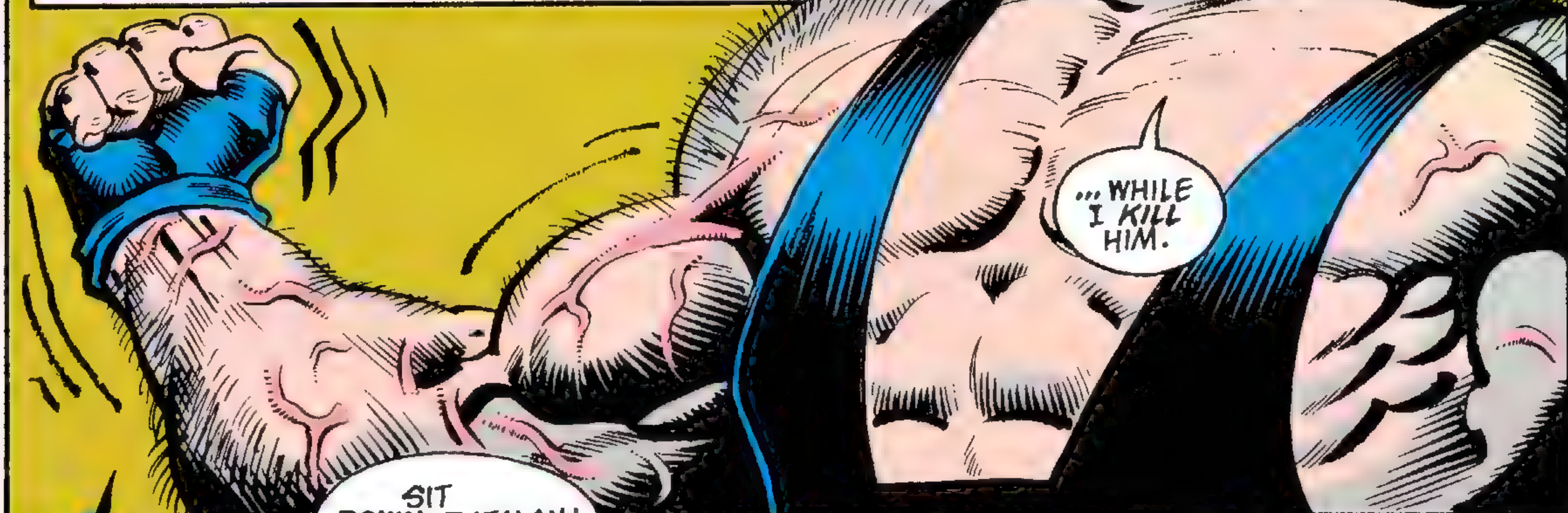
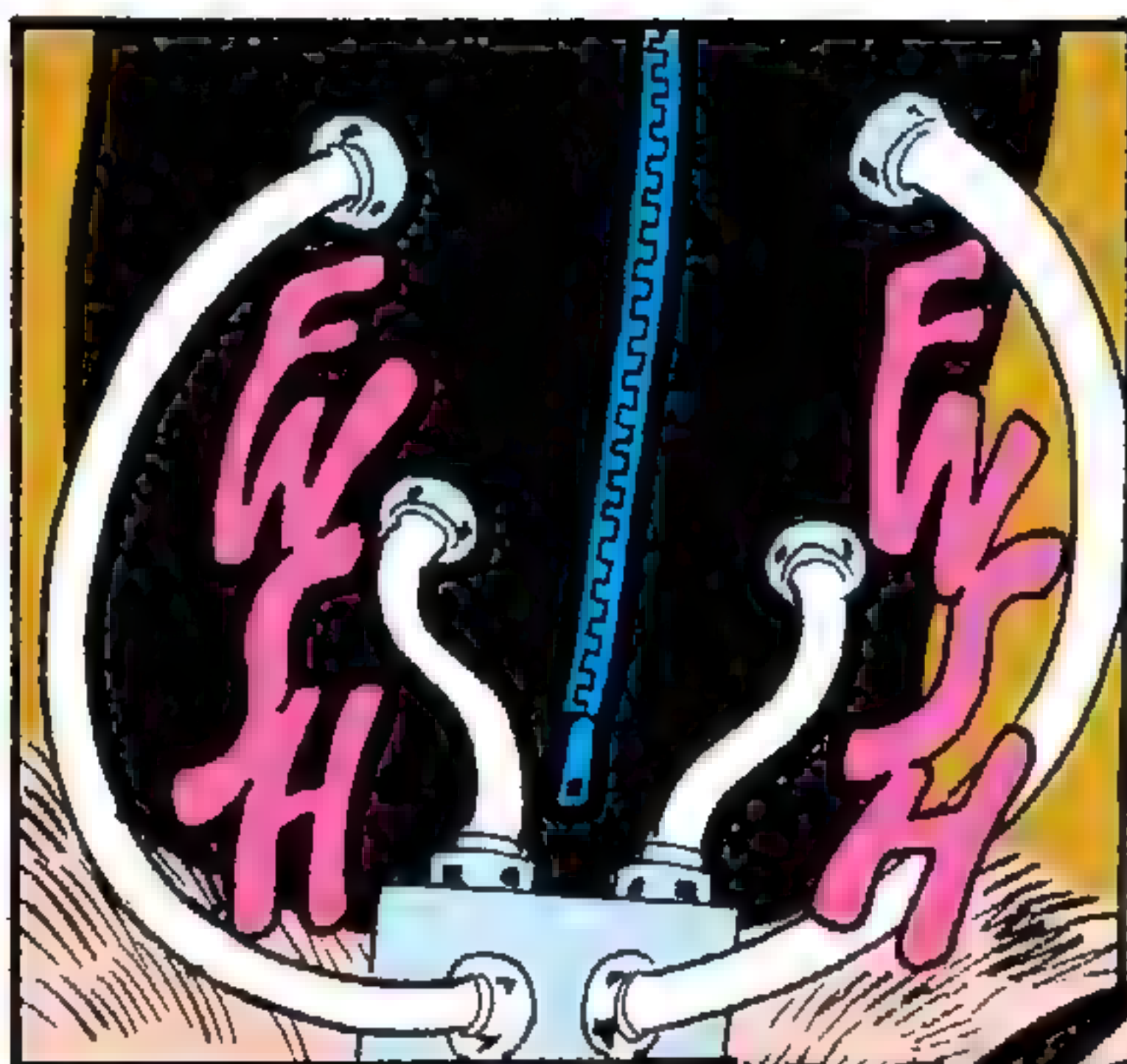
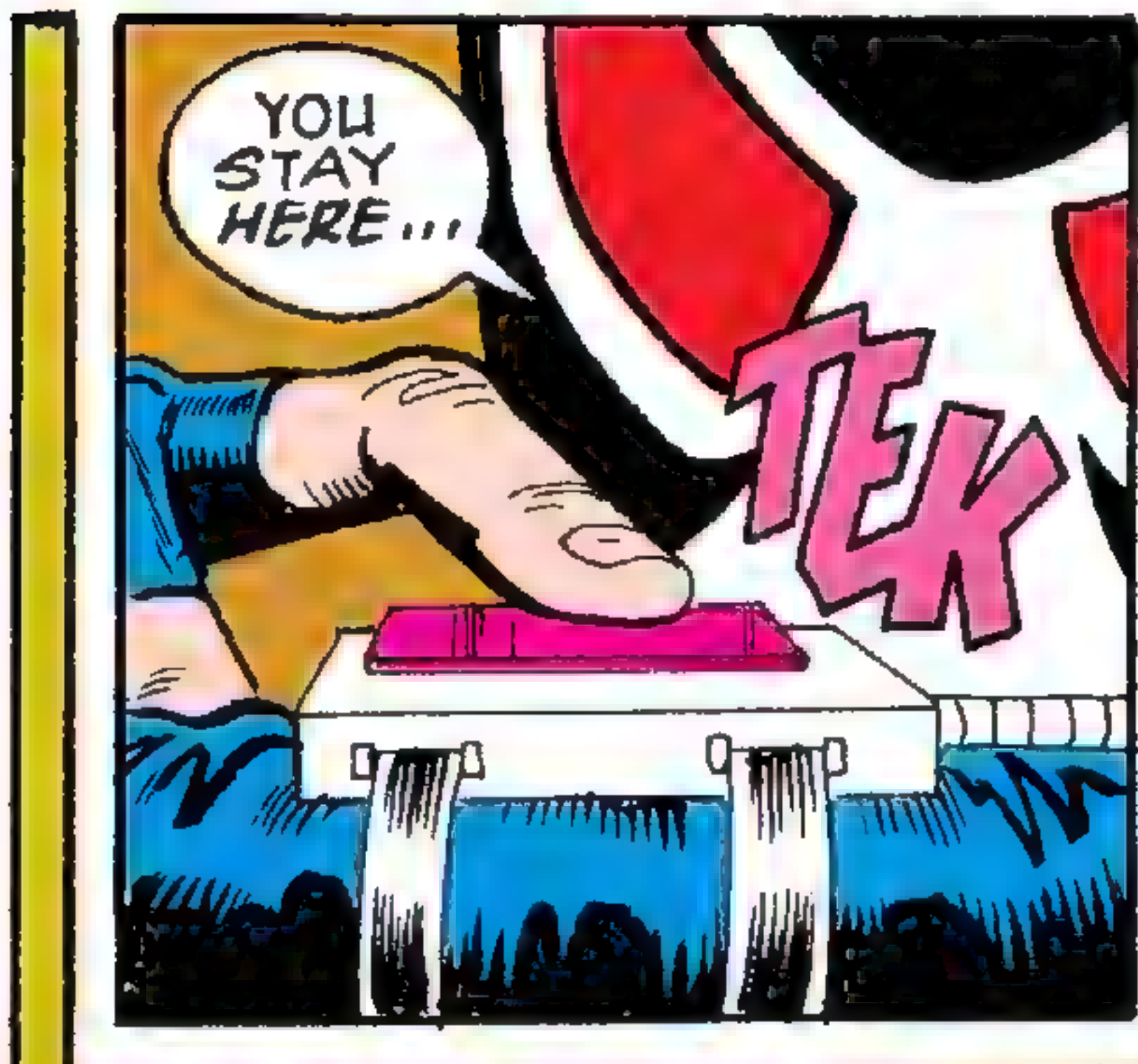
"HEADIN'  
FOR THE  
ALLEY.



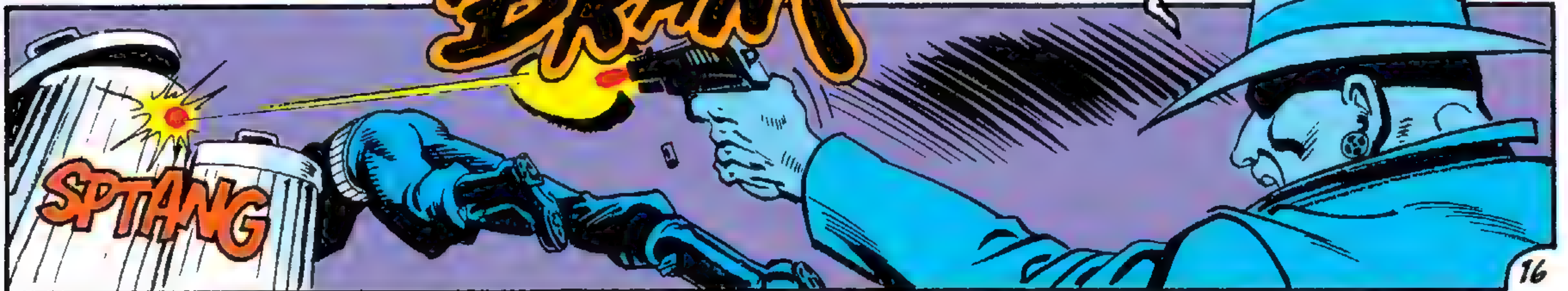
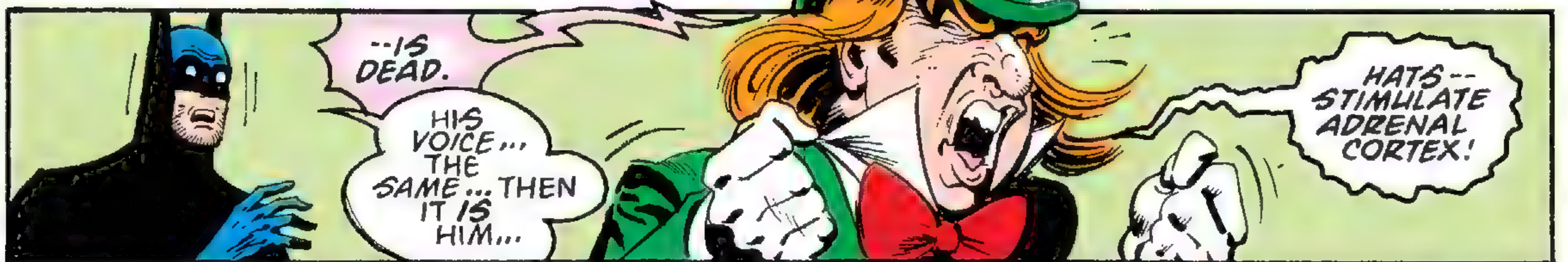
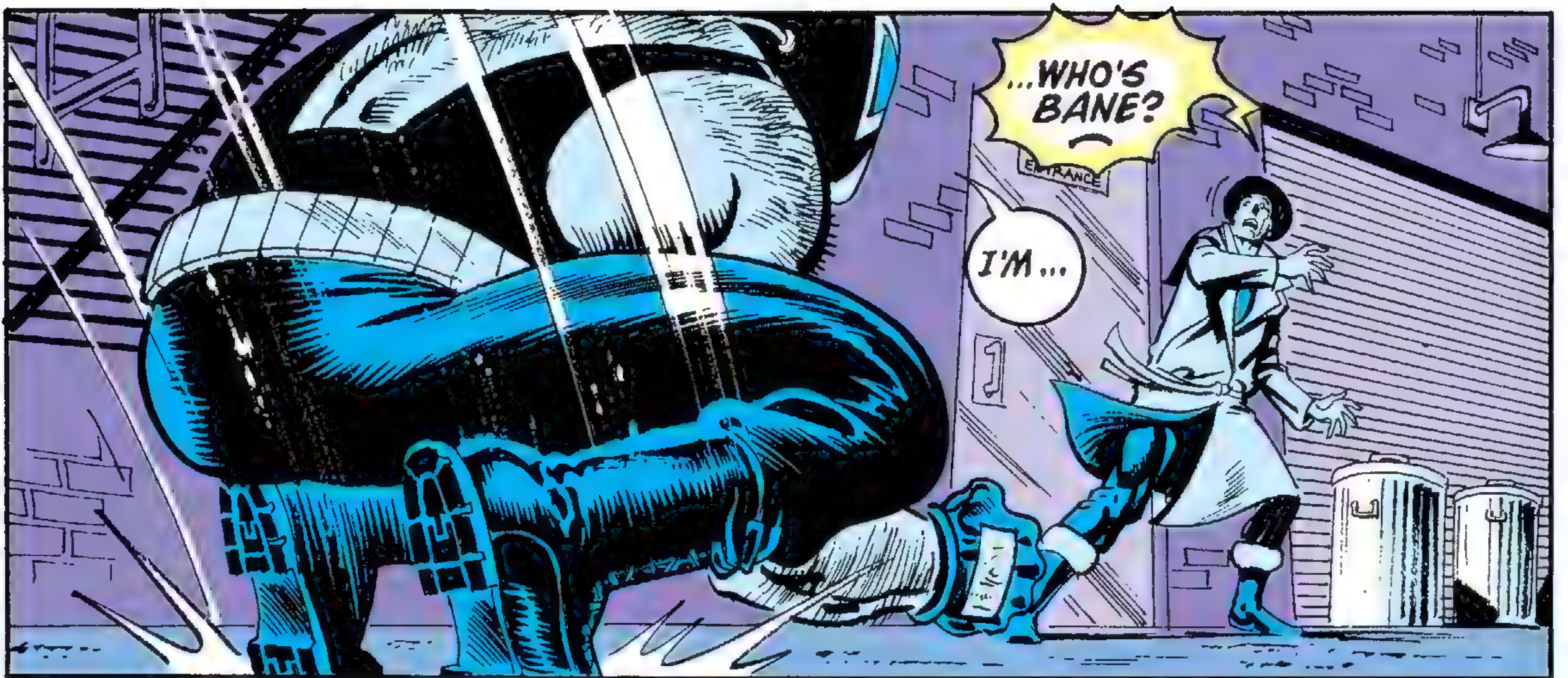
DON'T  
MAKE A  
MOVE,  
HATTER.

AHAH! OUR  
GUEST  
OF HONOR --  
AT LAST!

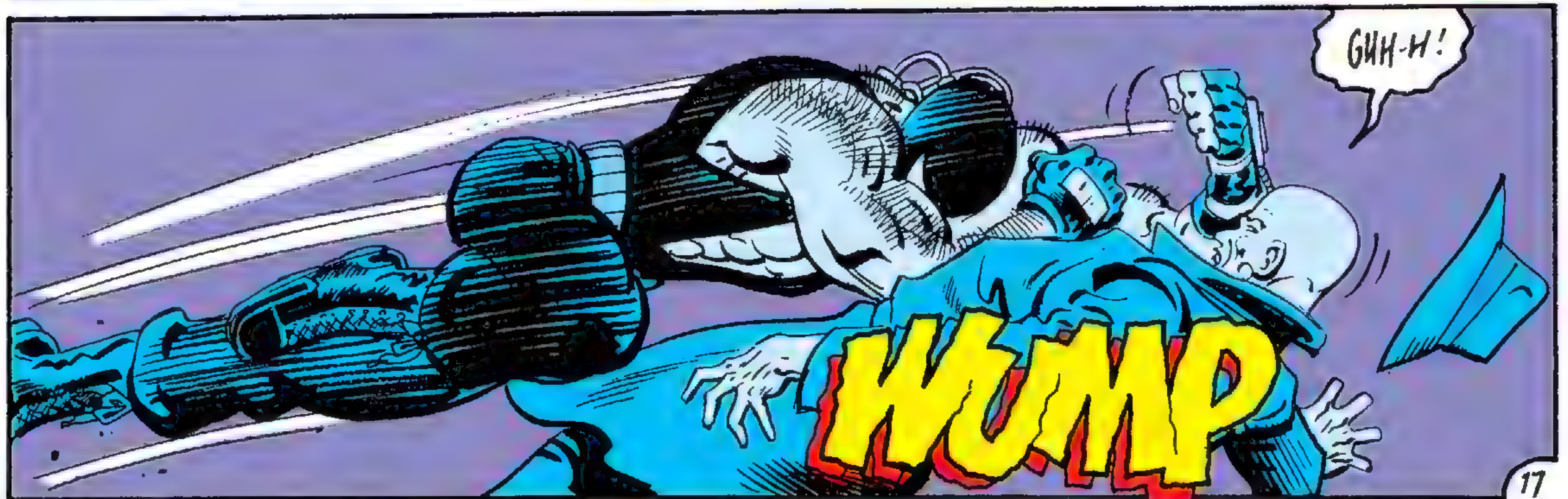
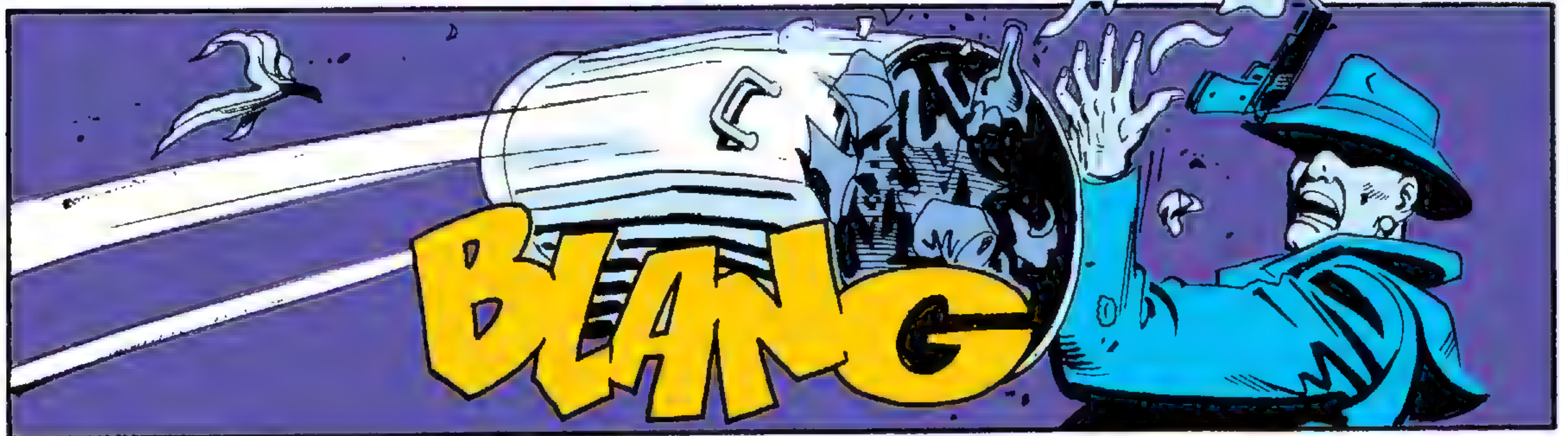
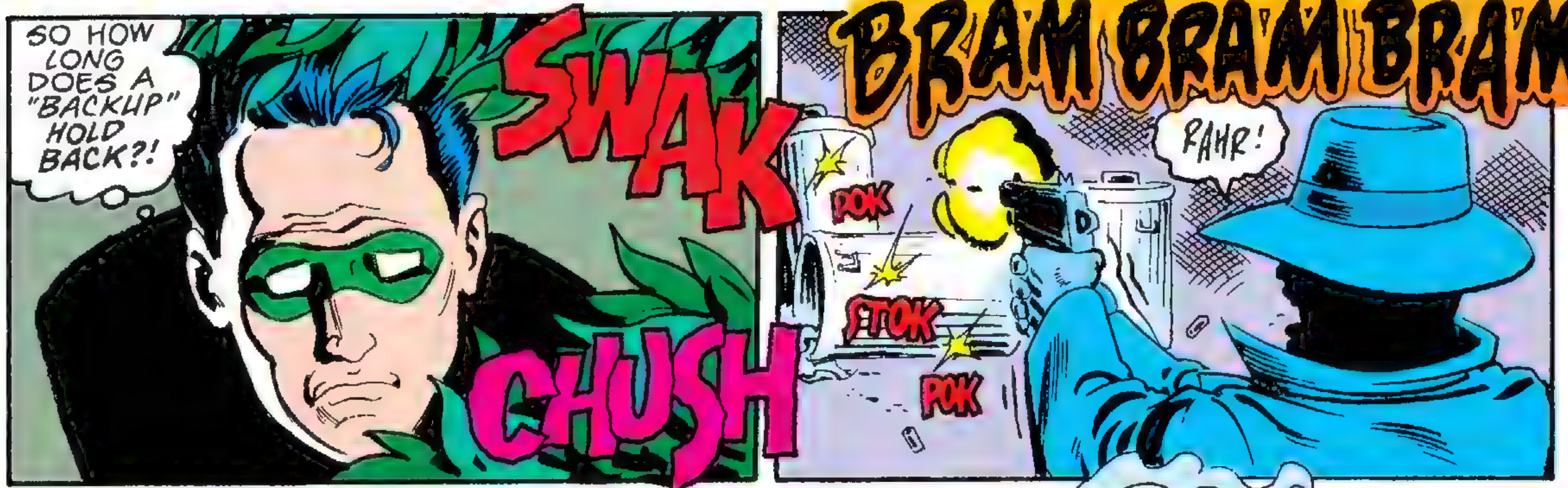
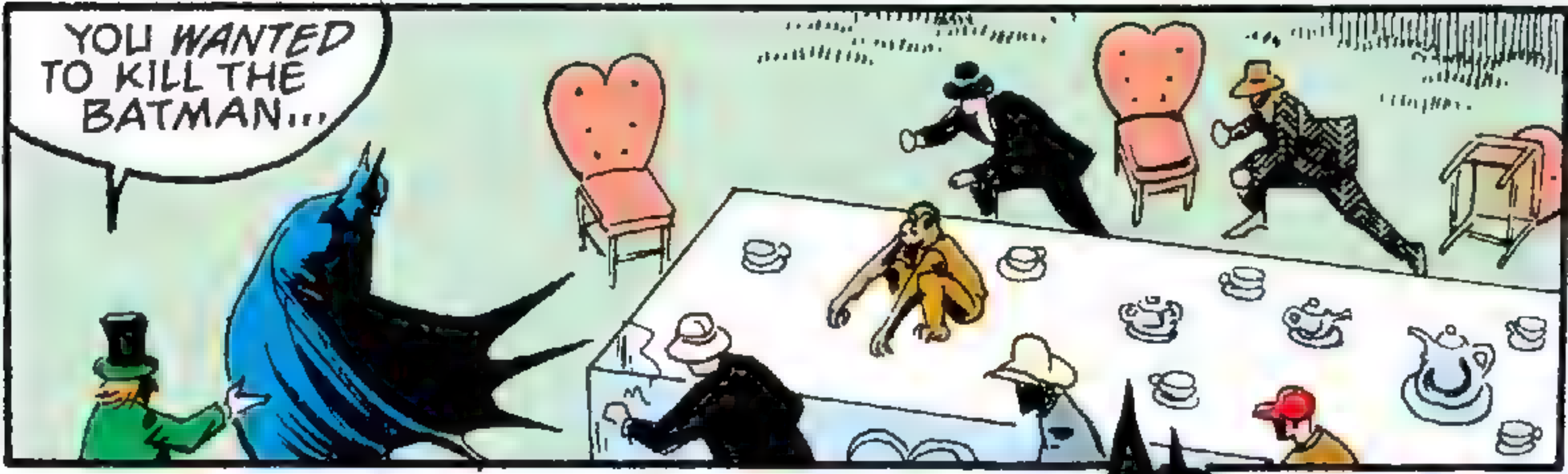




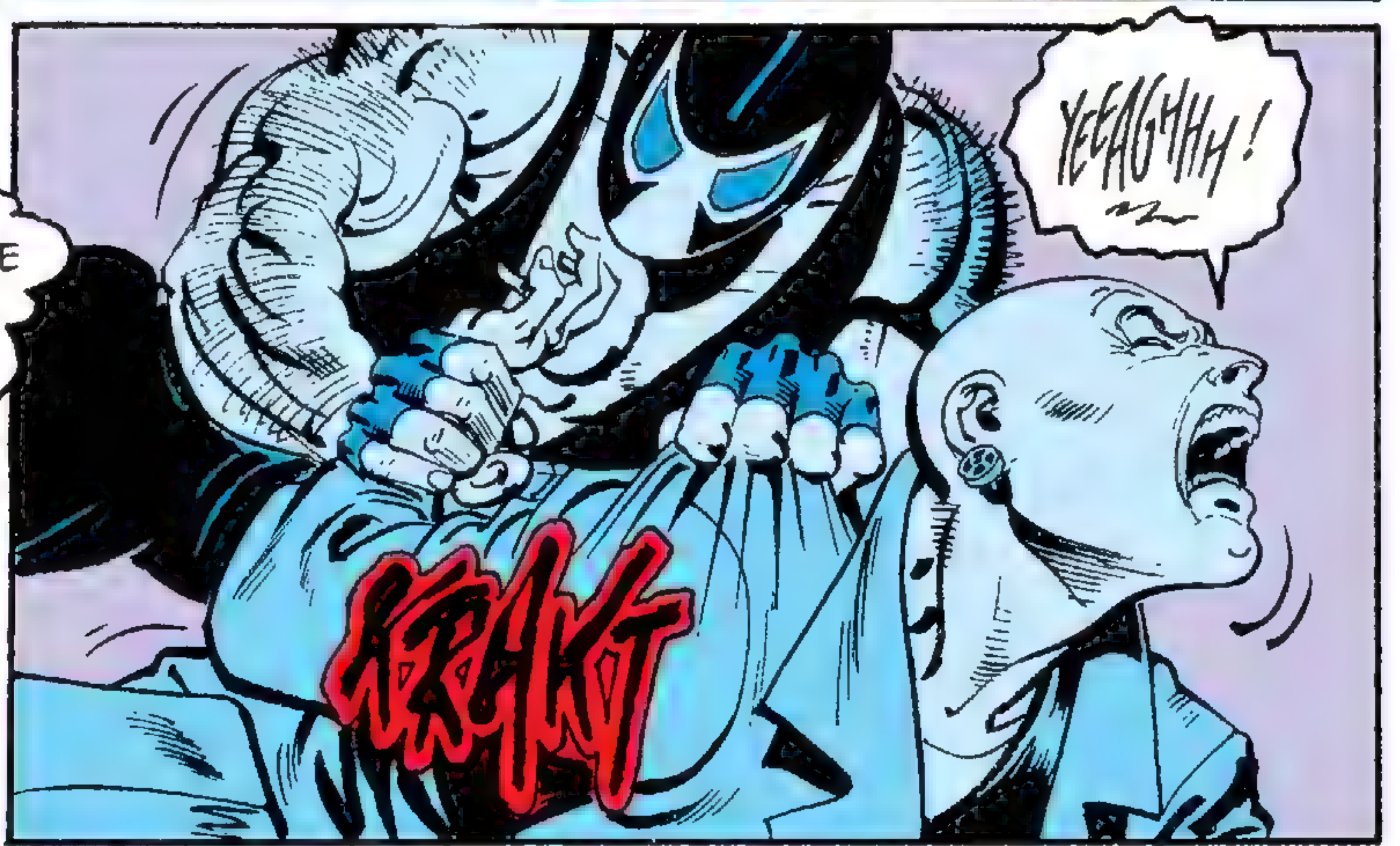
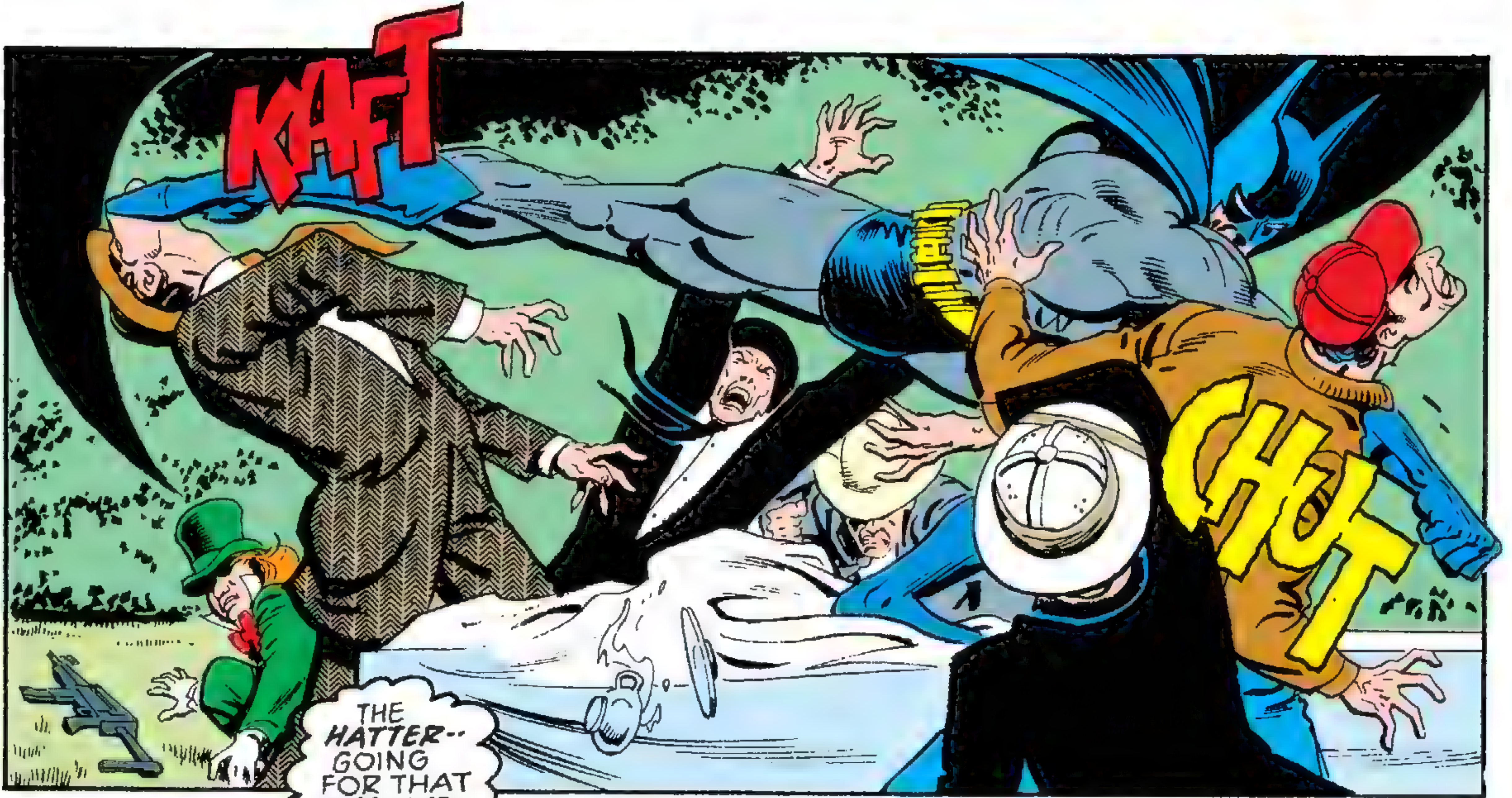




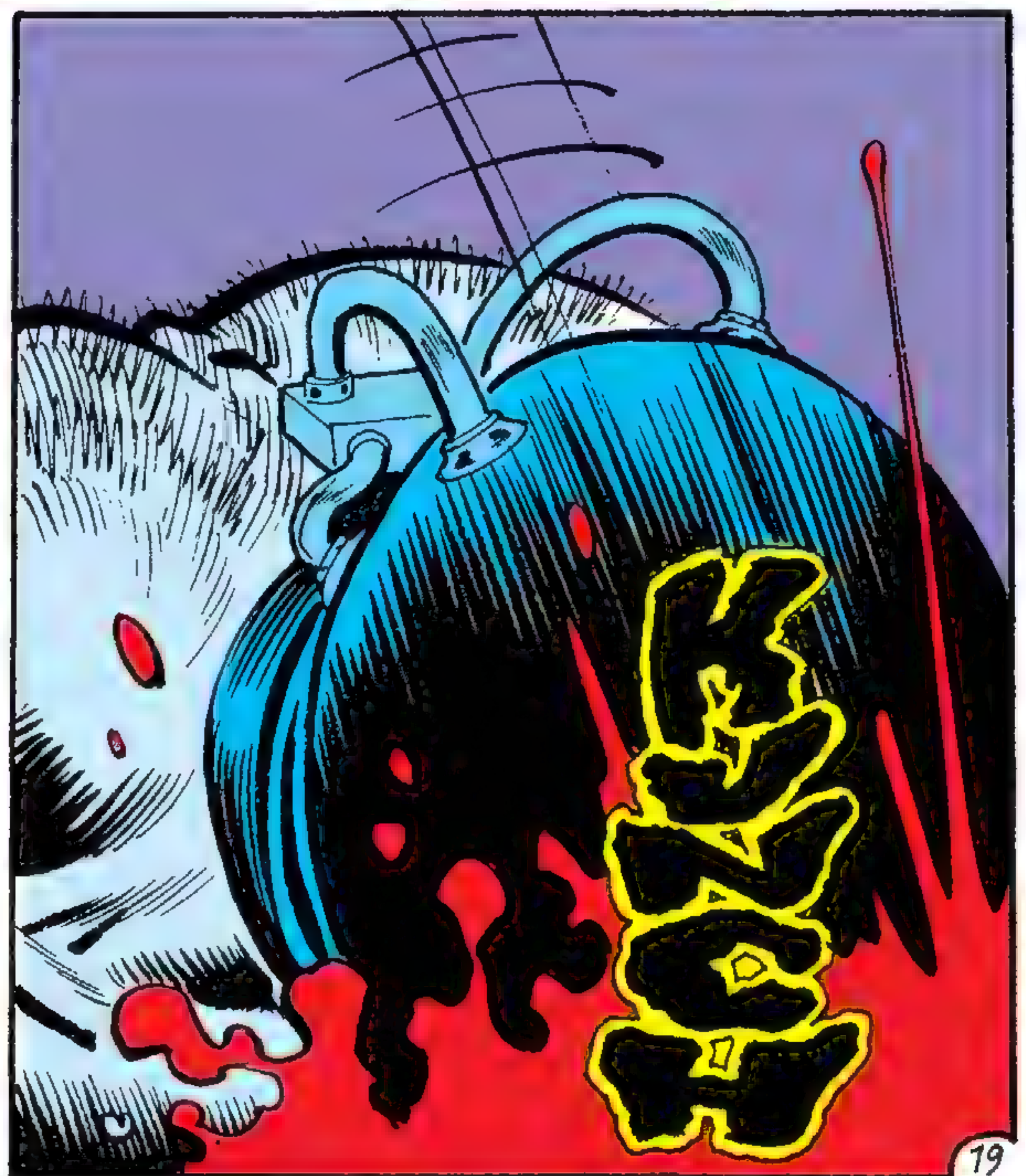




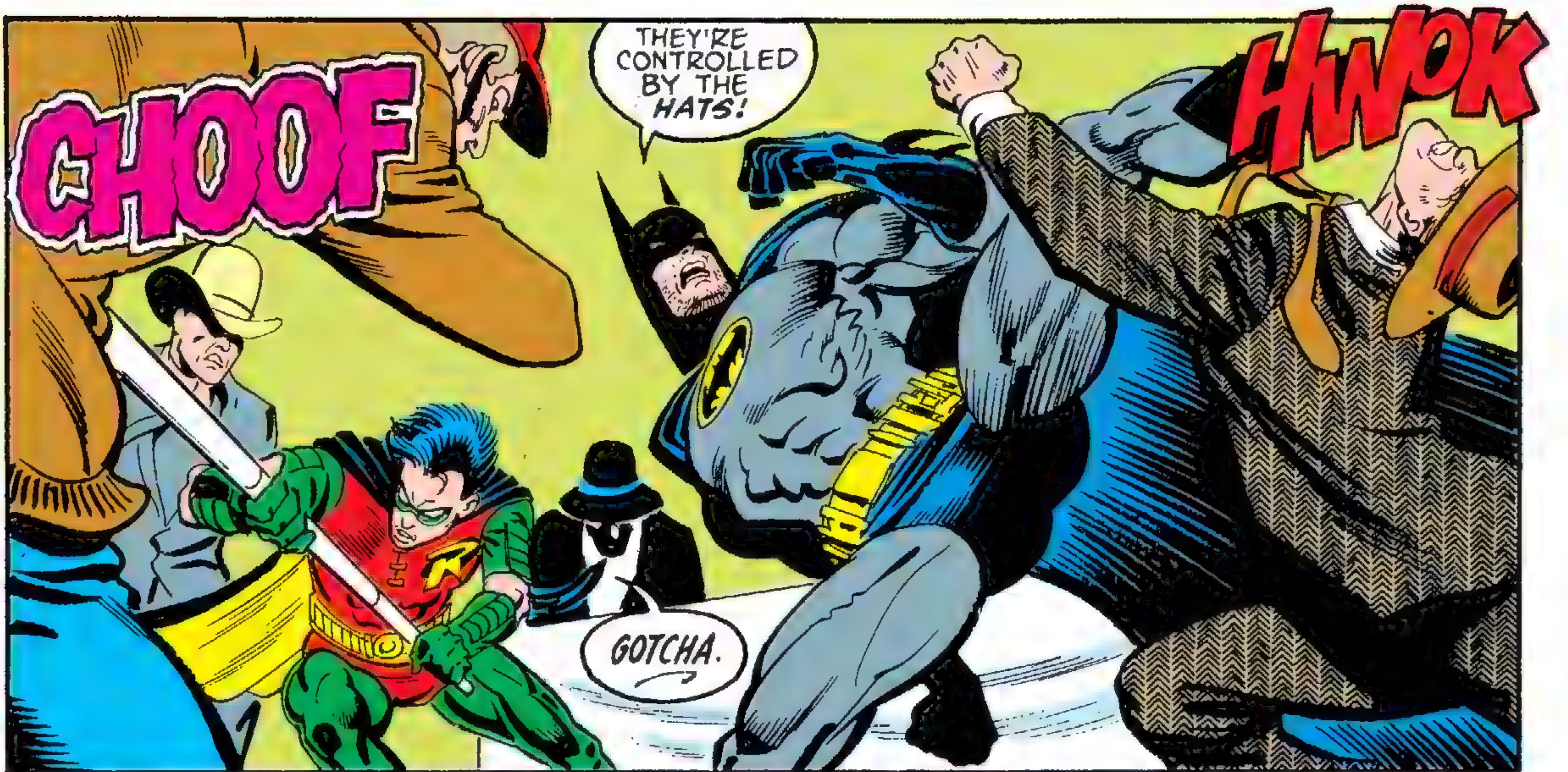




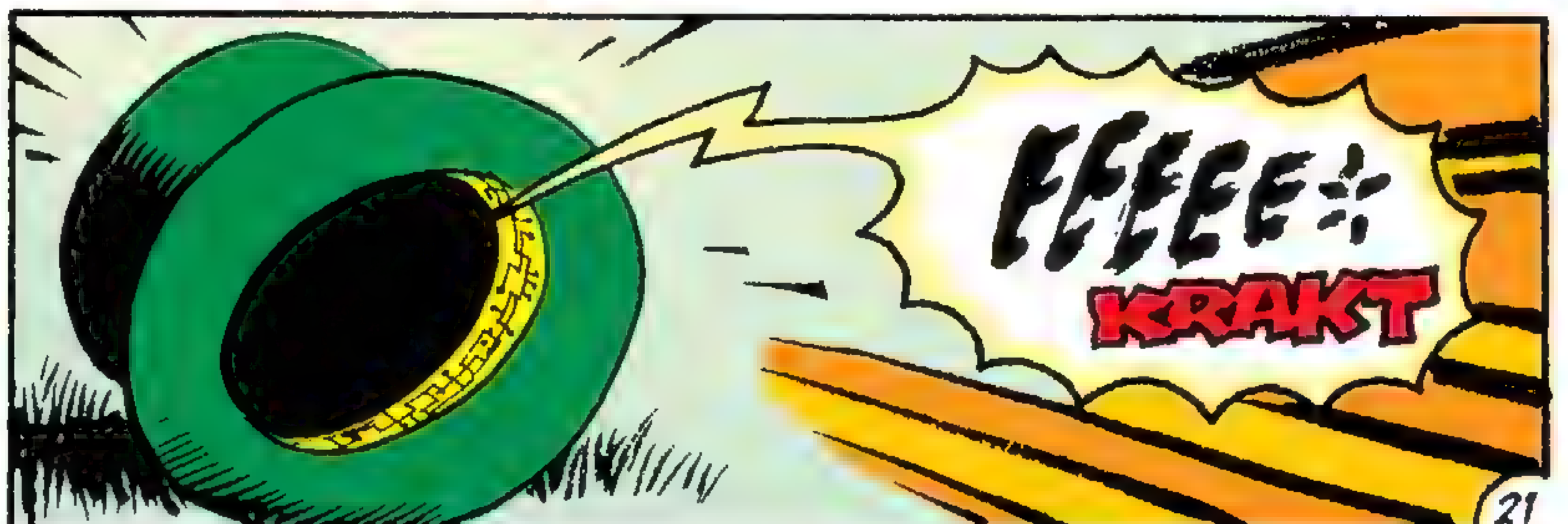
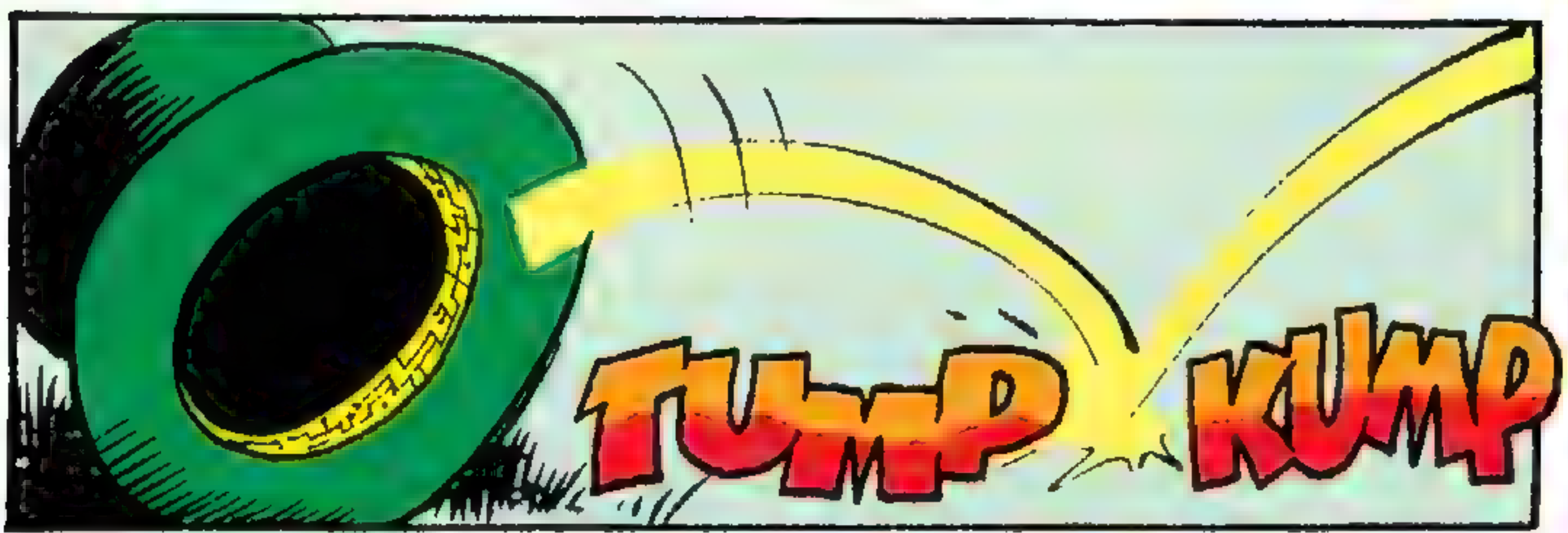
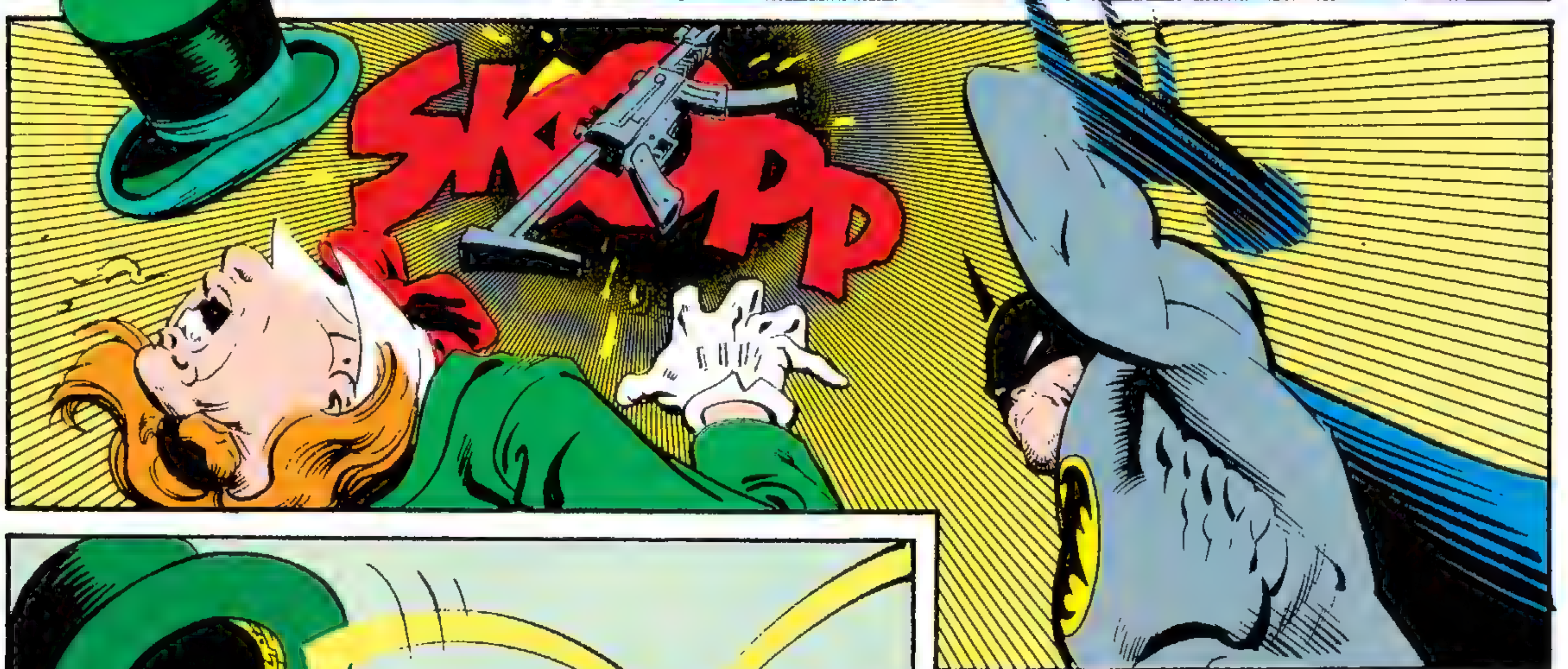
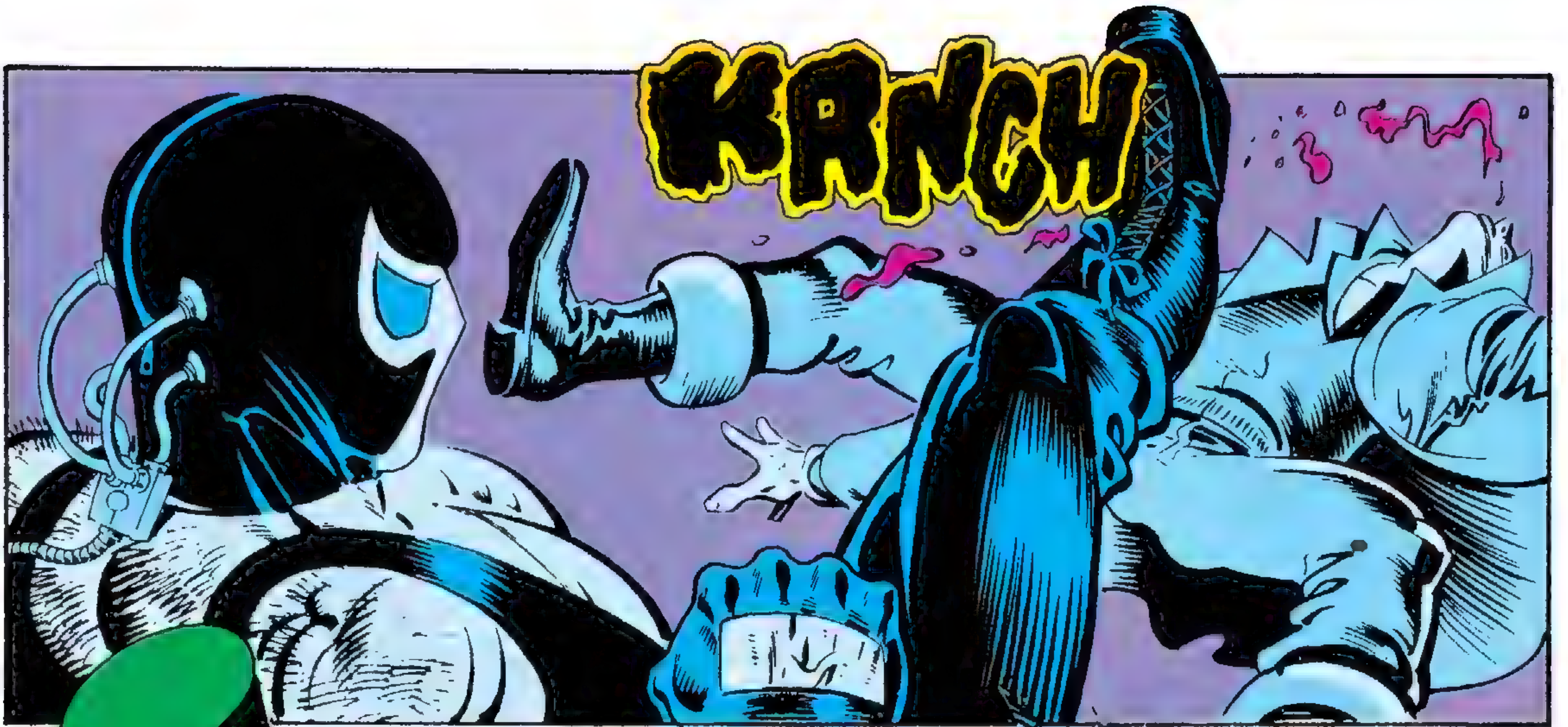




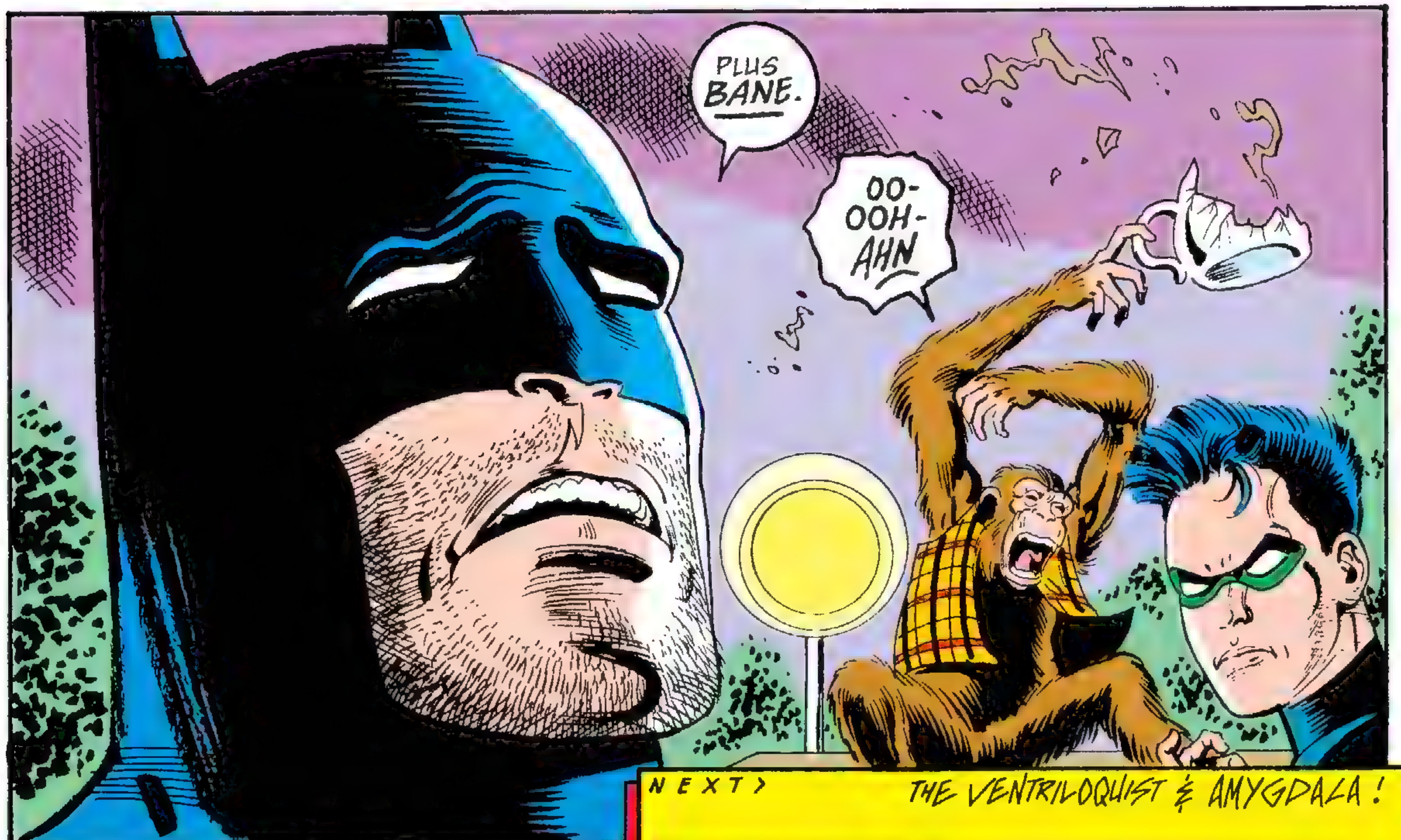
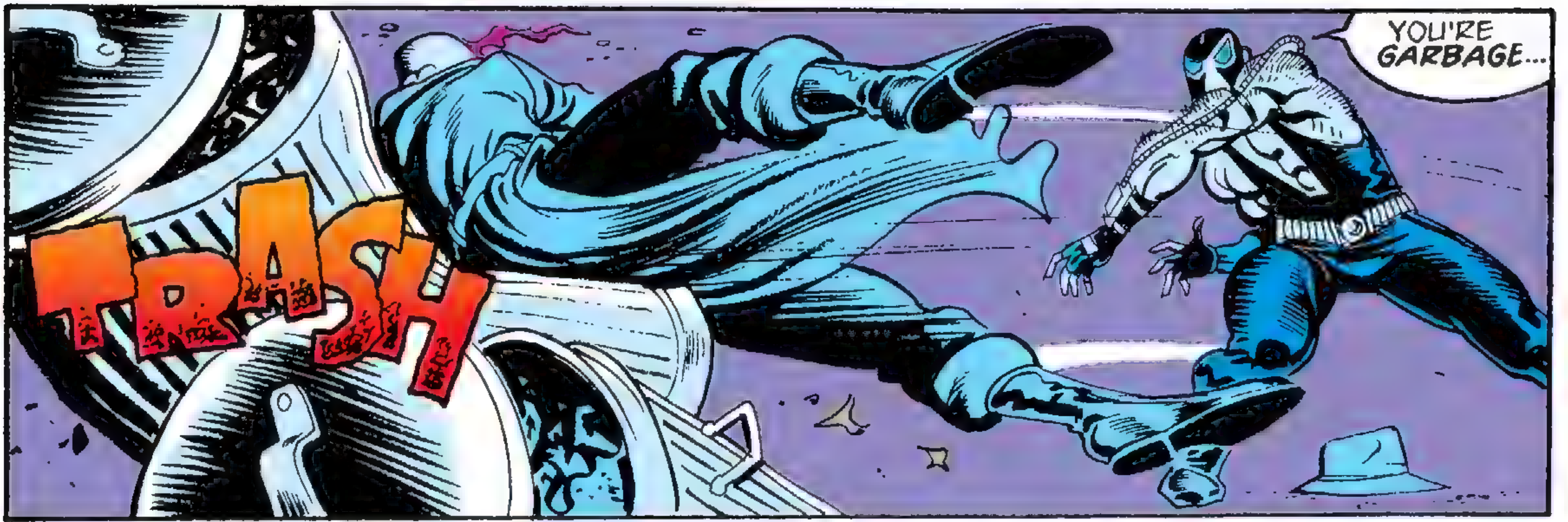








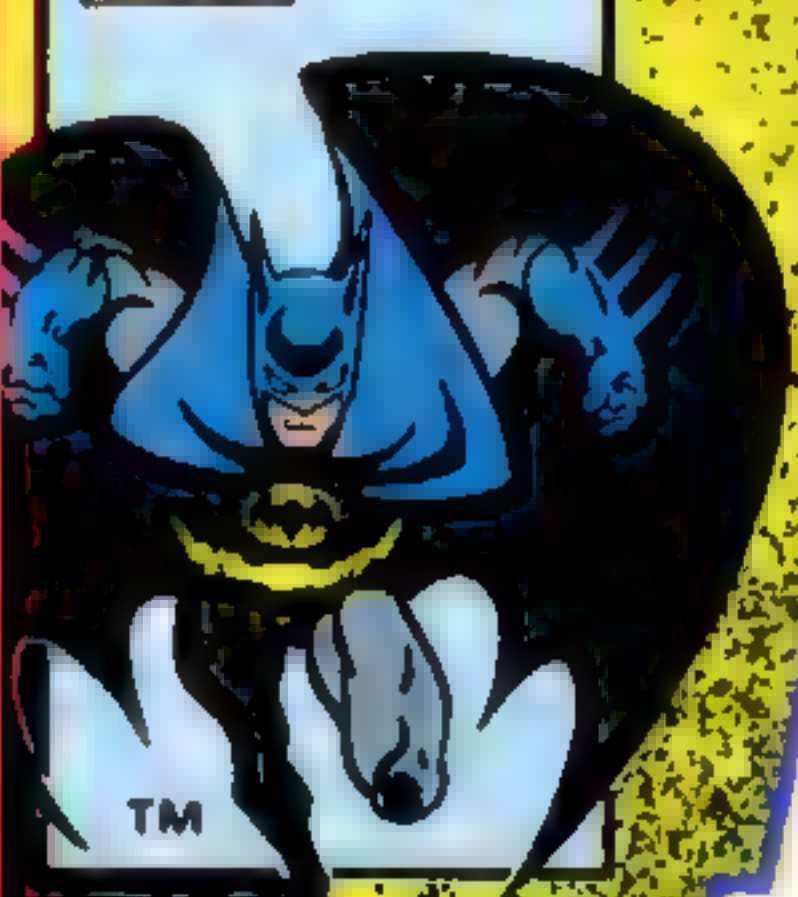








659



KNIGHTFALL



DETECTIVE COMICS<sup>®</sup>

# BATMAN<sup>®</sup>



Kelley Jones '93





Cover art by  
**KELLEY JONES**



# PURPETS

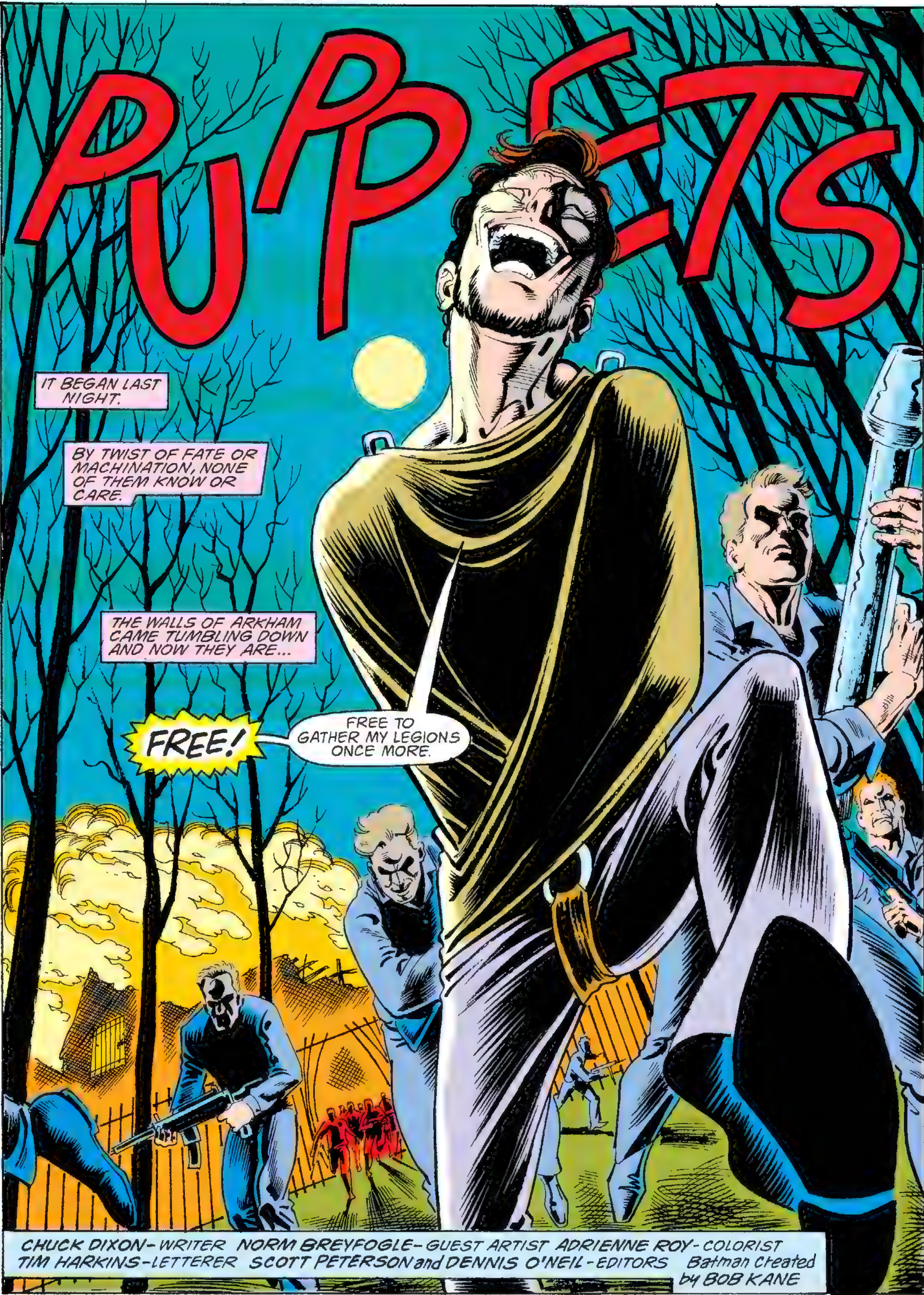
IT BEGAN LAST NIGHT.

BY TWIST OF FATE OR MACHINATION, NONE OF THEM KNOW OR CARE.

THE WALLS OF ARKHAM CAME TUMBLING DOWN AND NOW THEY ARE...

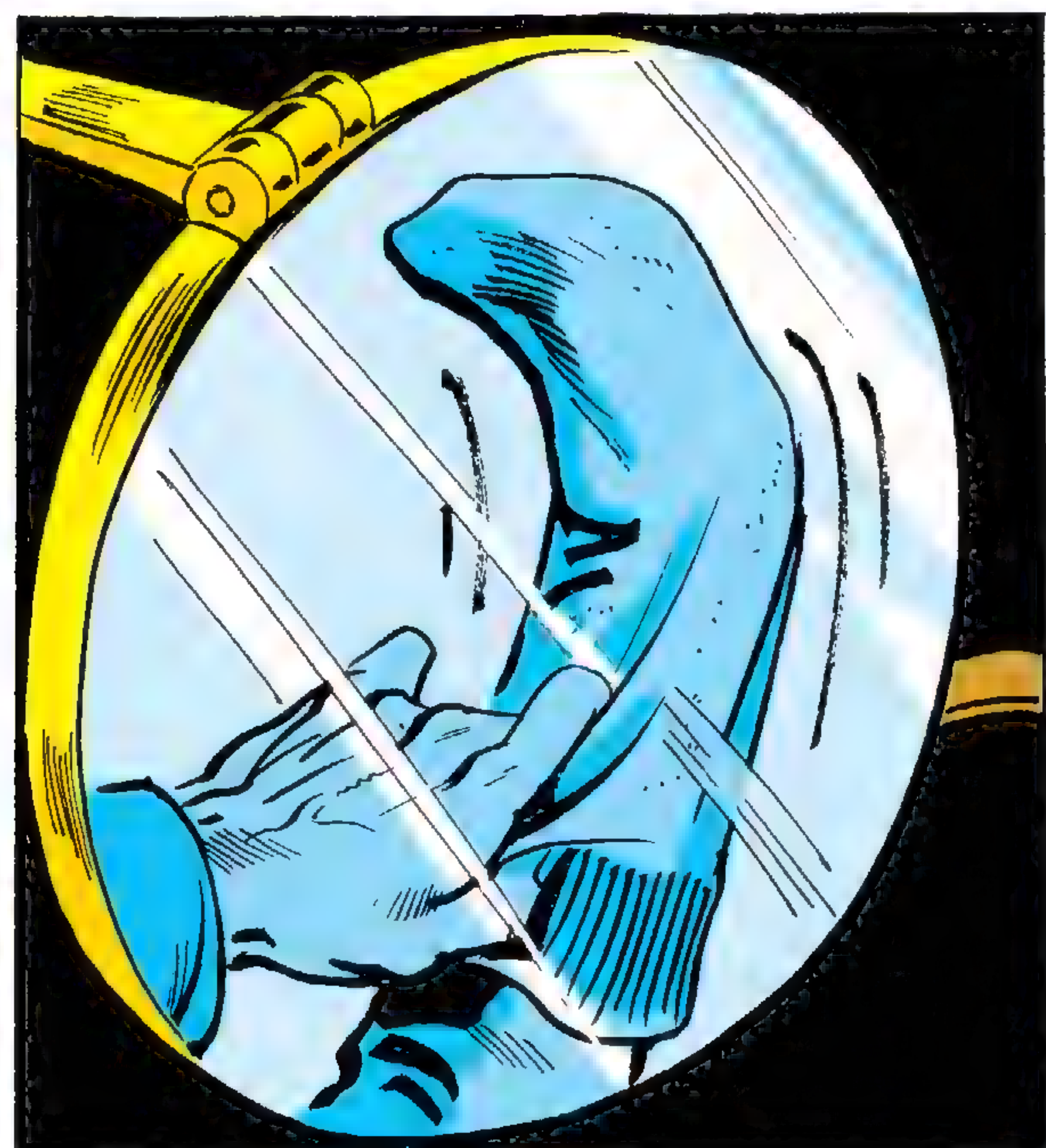
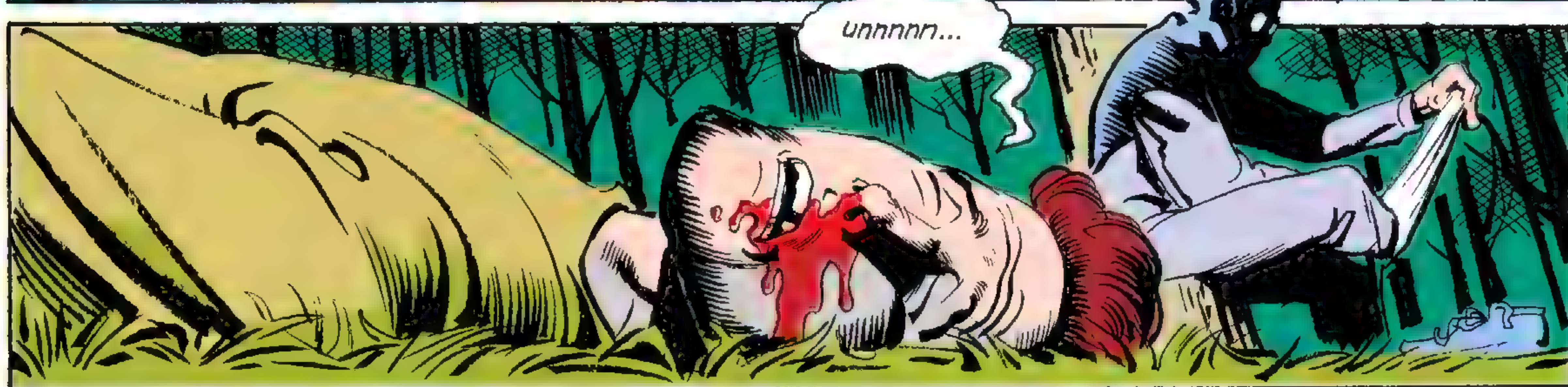
**FREE!**

FREE TO GATHER MY LEGIONS ONCE MORE.



CHUCK DIXON-WRITER NORM GREYFOGLE-GUEST ARTIST ADRIENNE ROY-COLORIST  
TIM HARKINS-LETTERER SCOTT PETERSON and DENNIS O'NEIL-EDITORS Batman Created  
by BOB KANE









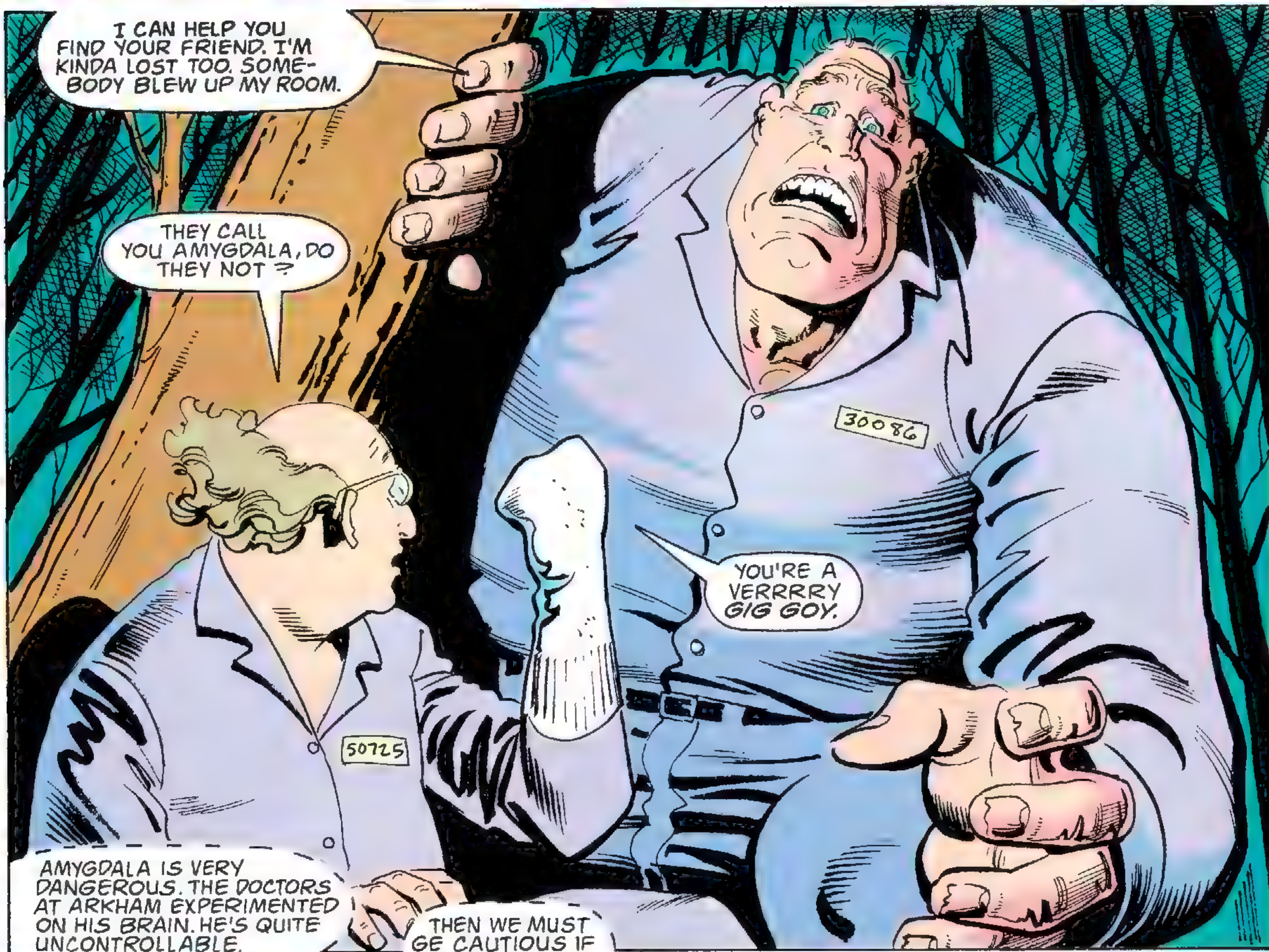
I REALLY MUST FIND HIM. AND I CAN'T DO IT ALONE. COULD YOU HELP ME?

I CAN TRY, MR. VENTRILOQUIST...



COULD I HELP TOO?

oh.



I CAN HELP YOU FIND YOUR FRIEND. I'M KINDA LOST TOO. SOMEBODY BLEW UP MY ROOM.

THEY CALL YOU AMYGDALA, DO THEY NOT?

YOU'RE A VERRRRY GIG GOY.

AMYGDALA IS VERY DANGEROUS. THE DOCTORS AT ARKHAM EXPERIMENTED ON HIS BRAIN. HE'S QUITE UNCONTROLLABLE.

THEN WE MUST BE CAUTIOUS IF WE'RE TO USE HIM.



YOU MAY HELP ME FIND SCARFACE, AMYGDALA. I AM THE VENTRILOQUIST.

AND WHAT'S YOUR LITTLE FRIEND'S NAME?

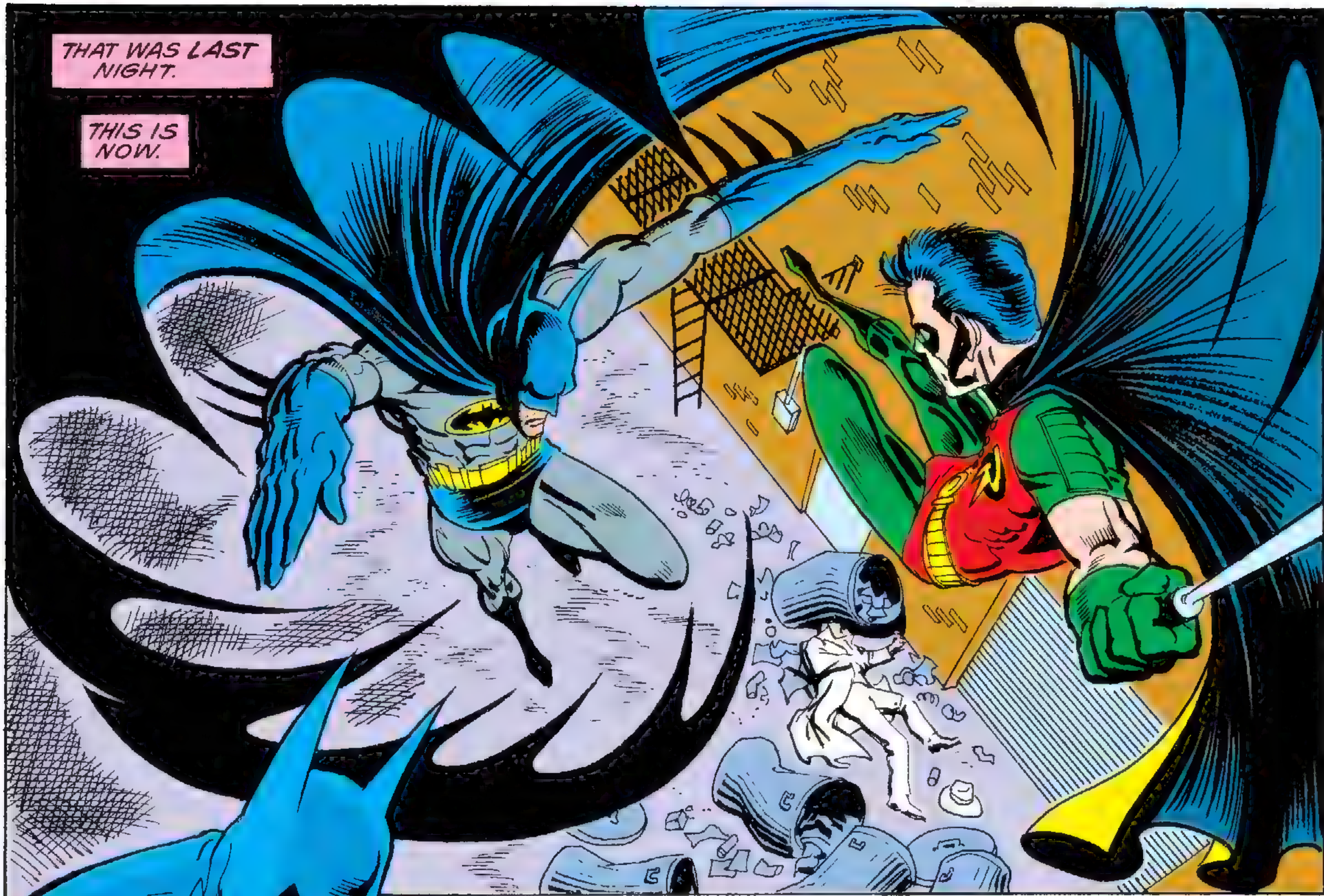
uh... SOCKO.

AM I SUPPOSED TO GET MY MEDICINE SOON?

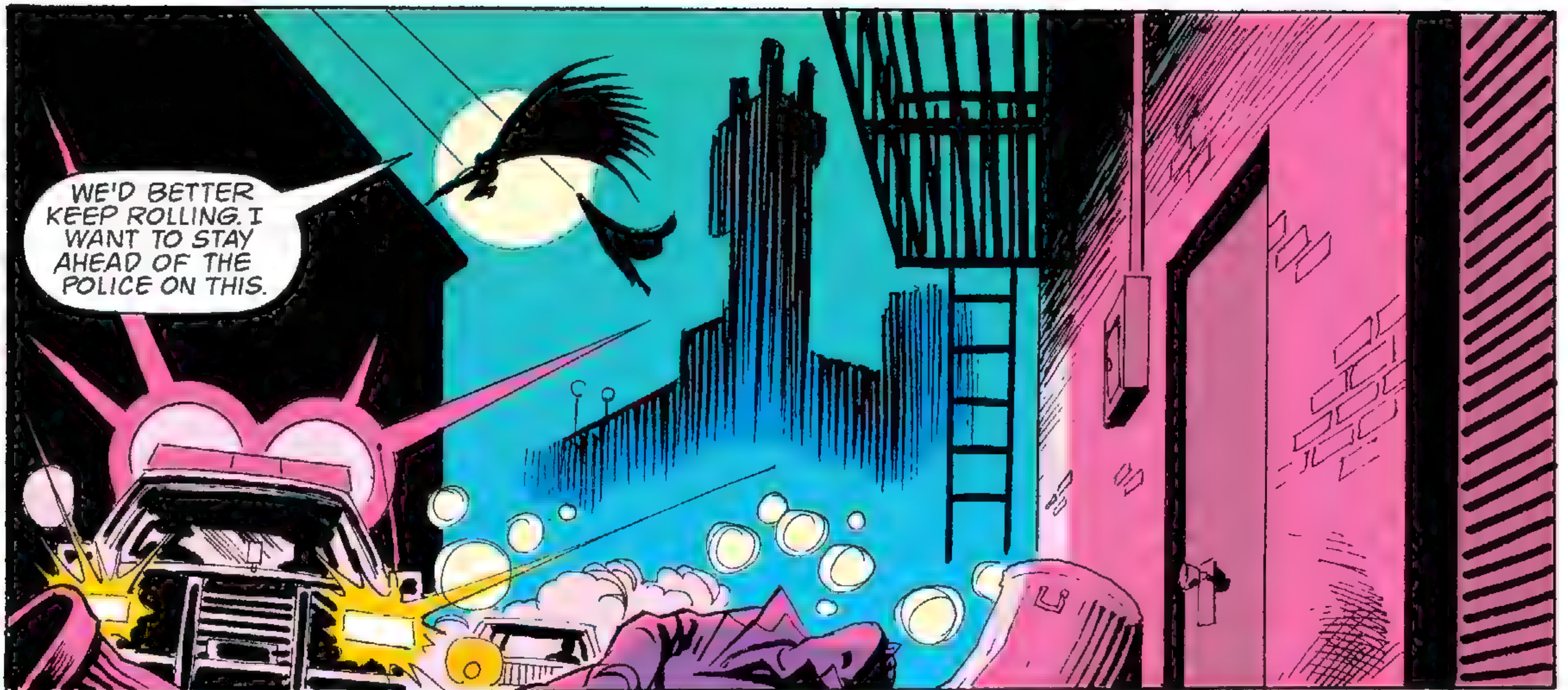


THAT WAS LAST NIGHT.

THIS IS NOW.







WE'D BETTER  
KEEP ROLLING. I  
WANT TO STAY  
AHEAD OF THE  
POLICE ON THIS.



HE'S DEAD?

THEY DON'T GET  
ANY DEADER  
THAN THIS.

YOU GUYS WANT TO STEP LIGHTER?  
THIS IS A CRIME SCENE.



LIEUTENANT  
KITCH, I DIDN'T  
KNOW YOU WERE  
CATCHING.

I'M NOT. I WAS  
TWO BLOCKS AWAY  
WHEN THE CALL CAME  
IN. I'LL STICK UNTIL  
HOMICIDE GETS HERE.

WANT I  
SHOULD  
RADIO FOR  
A MEAT  
WAGON?



ONE OF THE ARKHAM  
INMATES. WENT BY THE  
NAME *FILM FREAK*. A  
LONG NIGHT JUST  
GOT LONGER.

BETTER PUT A  
CALL INTO THE  
COMMISSIONER.

TELL HIM WE  
DON'T HAVE TO  
LOOK FOR THIS  
ONE ANYMORE.



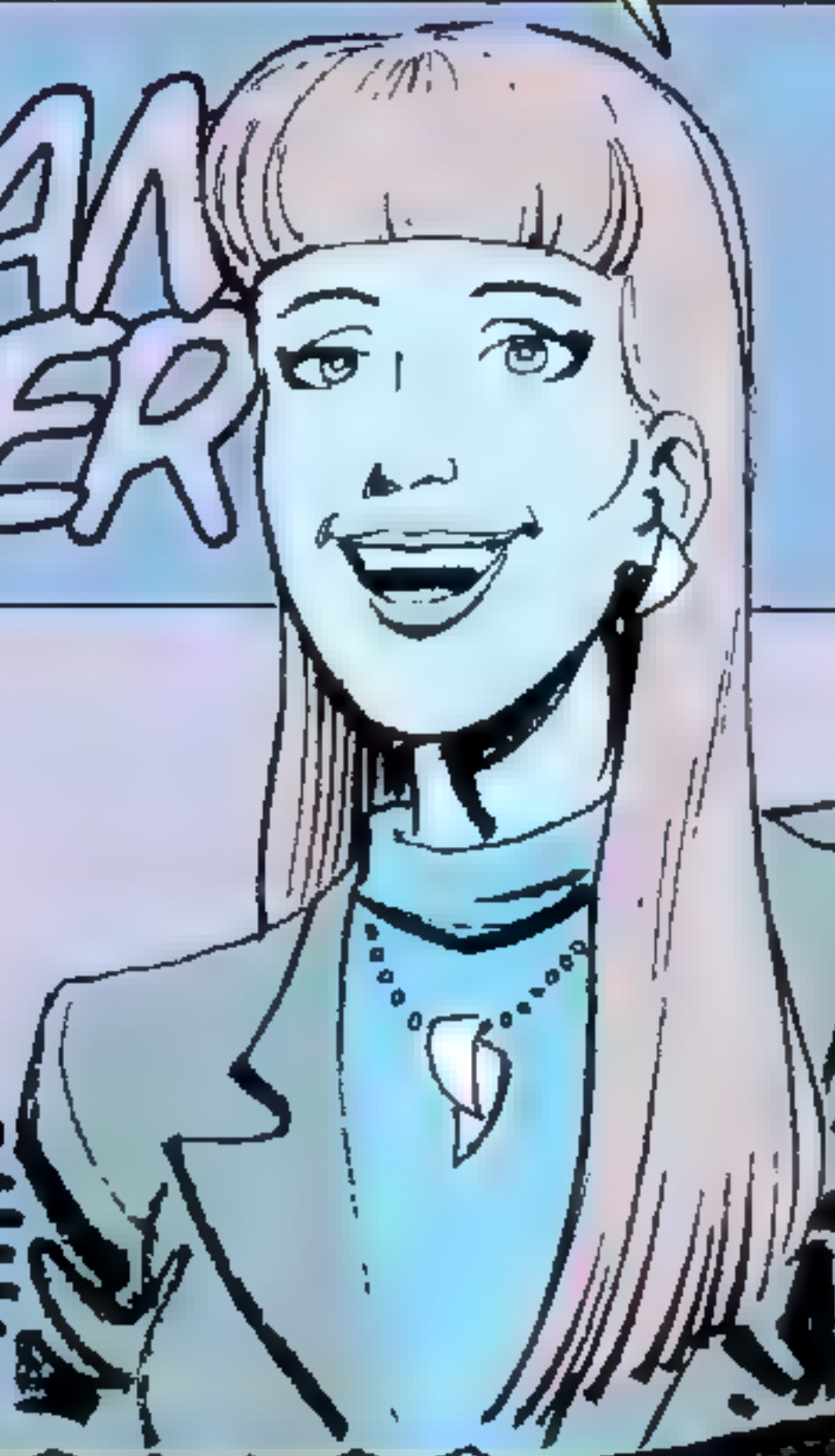
IT'S CALLED A MEDICAL  
EXAMINER'S VAN, PATROLMAN.  
EVEN A SKEL LIKE THIS DESERVES  
*SOME* RESPECT.

YOU KNOW  
THIS ONE, EL  
TEE?



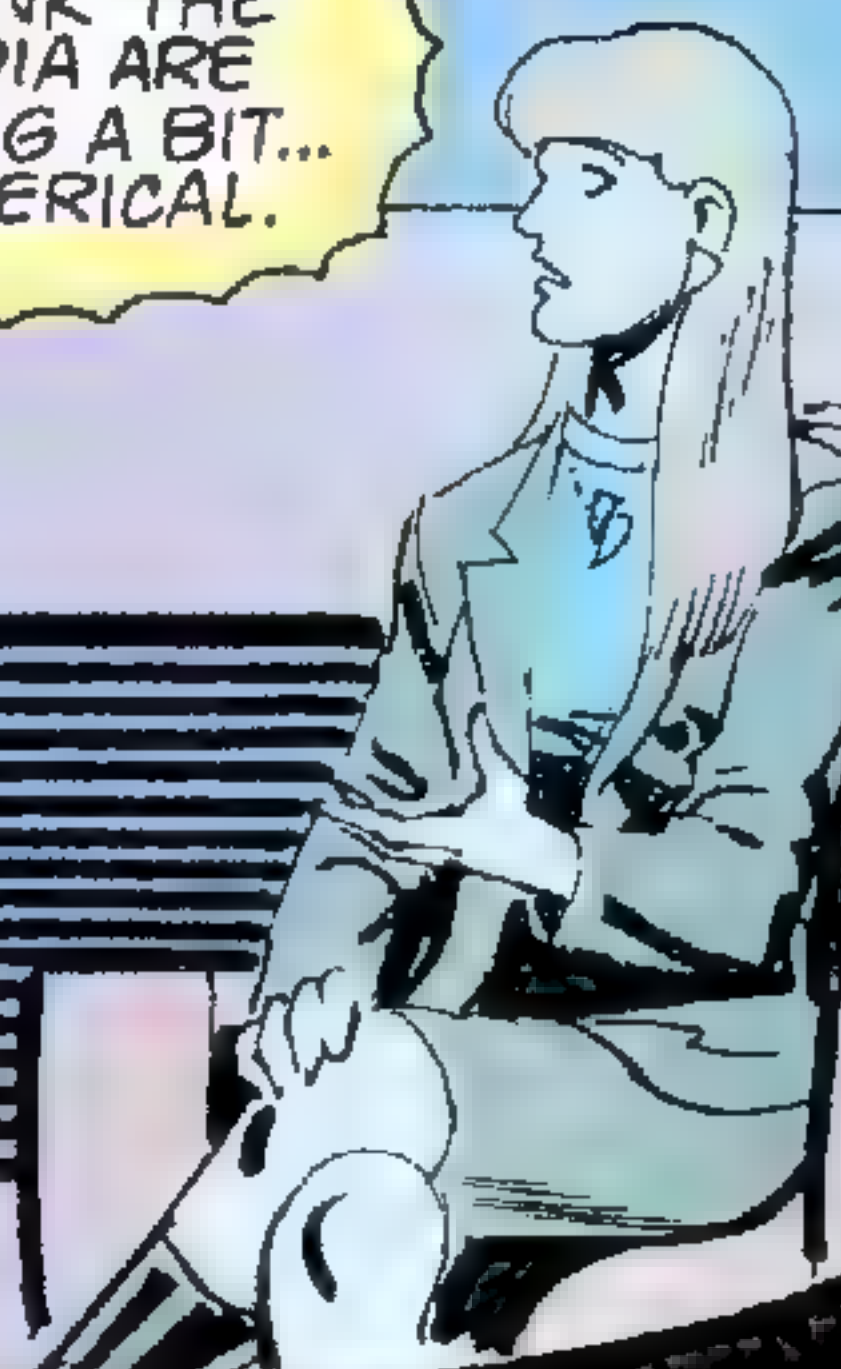
-- BACK TO GOTHAM INSIDER. OUR GUEST IS DR. SIMPSON FLANDERS, CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST AND ASSOCIATE AT ARKHAM ASYLUM--

GOTHAM INSIDER



-- WHICH IS MUCH IN THE NEWS TONIGHT. WHAT CAN WE EXPECT FROM THE MASS ESCAPE FROM ARKHAM, DOCTOR?

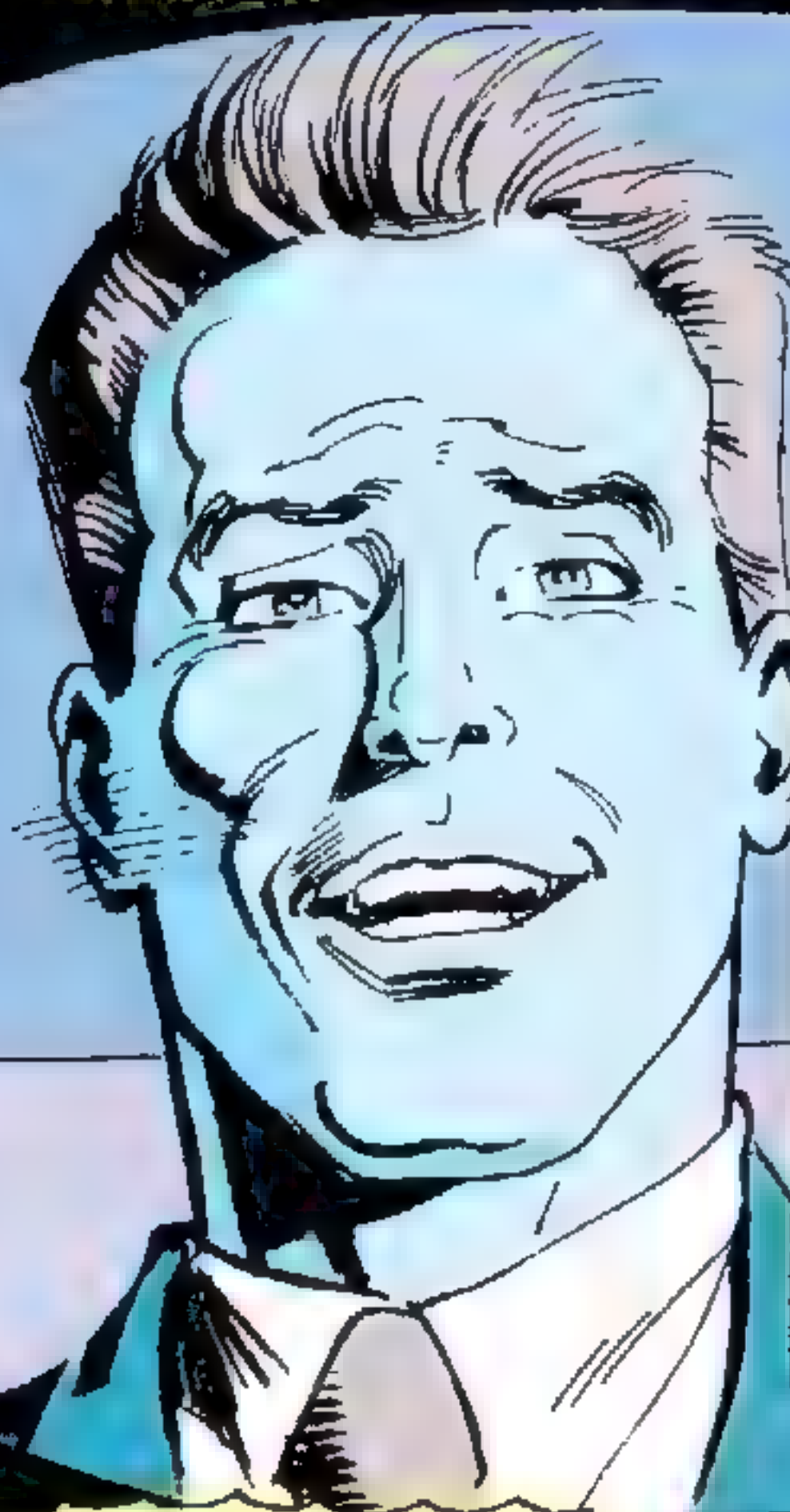
EXCUSE ME FOR SAYING SO, LINDA, BUT I THINK THE MEDIA ARE ACTING A BIT... HYSTERICAL.



AS I'VE DETAILED IN MY CURRENT BOOK, "I'M SANE AND SO ARE YOU," THESE PATIENTS ARE MERELY MISUNDERSTOOD.

THERE HAVE BEEN A DOZEN **HOMICIDES** SINCE THE BREAKOUT.

THEY ARE CRYING OUT FOR HELP, LINDA.



I'm Sane and so are you!



WE'RE TALKING ABOUT THE MOST DANGEROUS COLLECTION OF PSYCHOPATHS EVER ASSEMBLED. THEY ARE **HARDLY** "MISUNDERSTOOD."



THAT'S YOUR INNATE PREJUDICE TOWARD THE MENTALLY DIVERGENT--

"MENTALLY DIVERGENT"? THAT'S A NEW ONE.

IT'S IN MY BOOK.

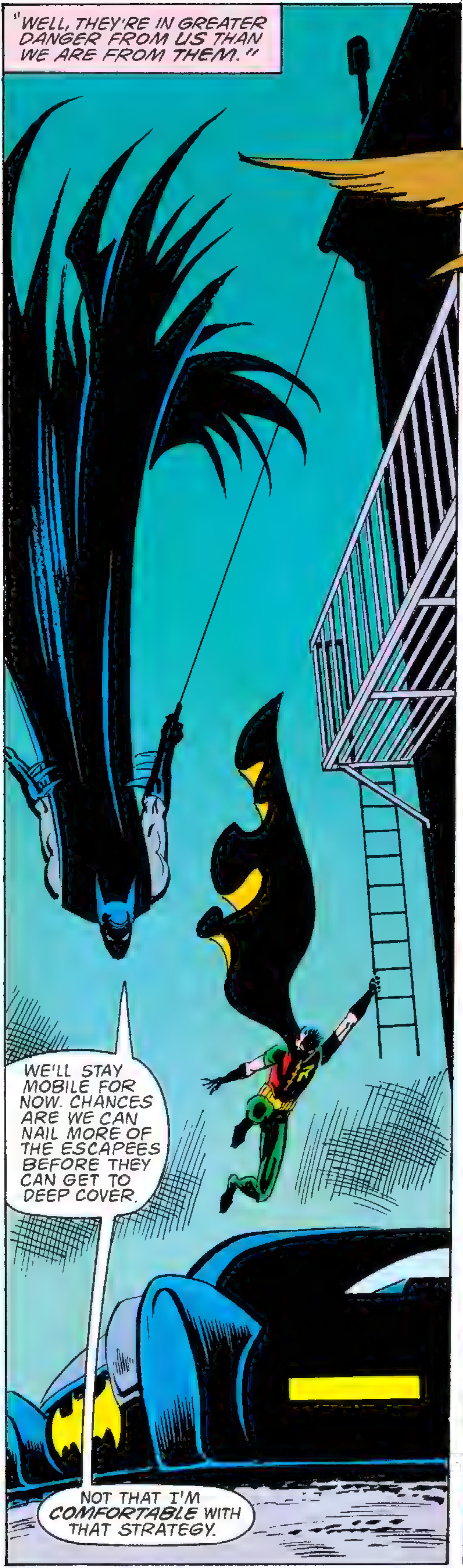


AND LET ME MAKE ANOTHER POINT. THESE PATIENTS ARE CONFUSED, LOST. THEY CANNOT OPERATE IN THE OUTSIDE WORLD.

YOU THINK THEY ARE A DANGER TO SOCIETY?







"WELL, THEY'RE IN GREATER DANGER FROM US THAN WE ARE FROM THEM."

WE'LL STAY MOBILE FOR NOW. CHANCES ARE WE CAN NAIL MORE OF THE ESCAPEES BEFORE THEY CAN GET TO DEEP COVER.

NOT THAT I'M COMFORTABLE WITH THAT STRATEGY.



I'M SURE WE WON'T HAVE TO LOOK FOR ALL OF THEM.

SOME OF THEM WILL BE LOOKING FOR US.



F.O.I.A.  
THE OXYMORON

MAYBE SOME OF THEM ALREADY ARE.

NO JUSTICE,  
NO PEACE

DREAM  
BIG!

HEAVY  
HEAVY  
CLUB  
SOLID  
BLOOD

POST  
NO  
BILLS

DEMONZ

BEEP  
WSHSHSH

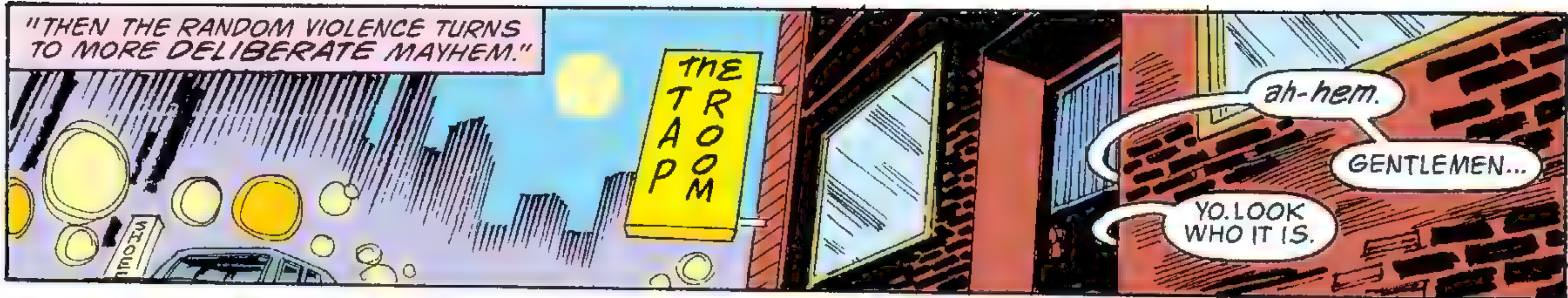
BEEP

I'D PREFER TO BE ACTING MORE AND RE-ACTING LESS. BUT THERE'S NO RHYME OR REASON TO ANY OF THIS.

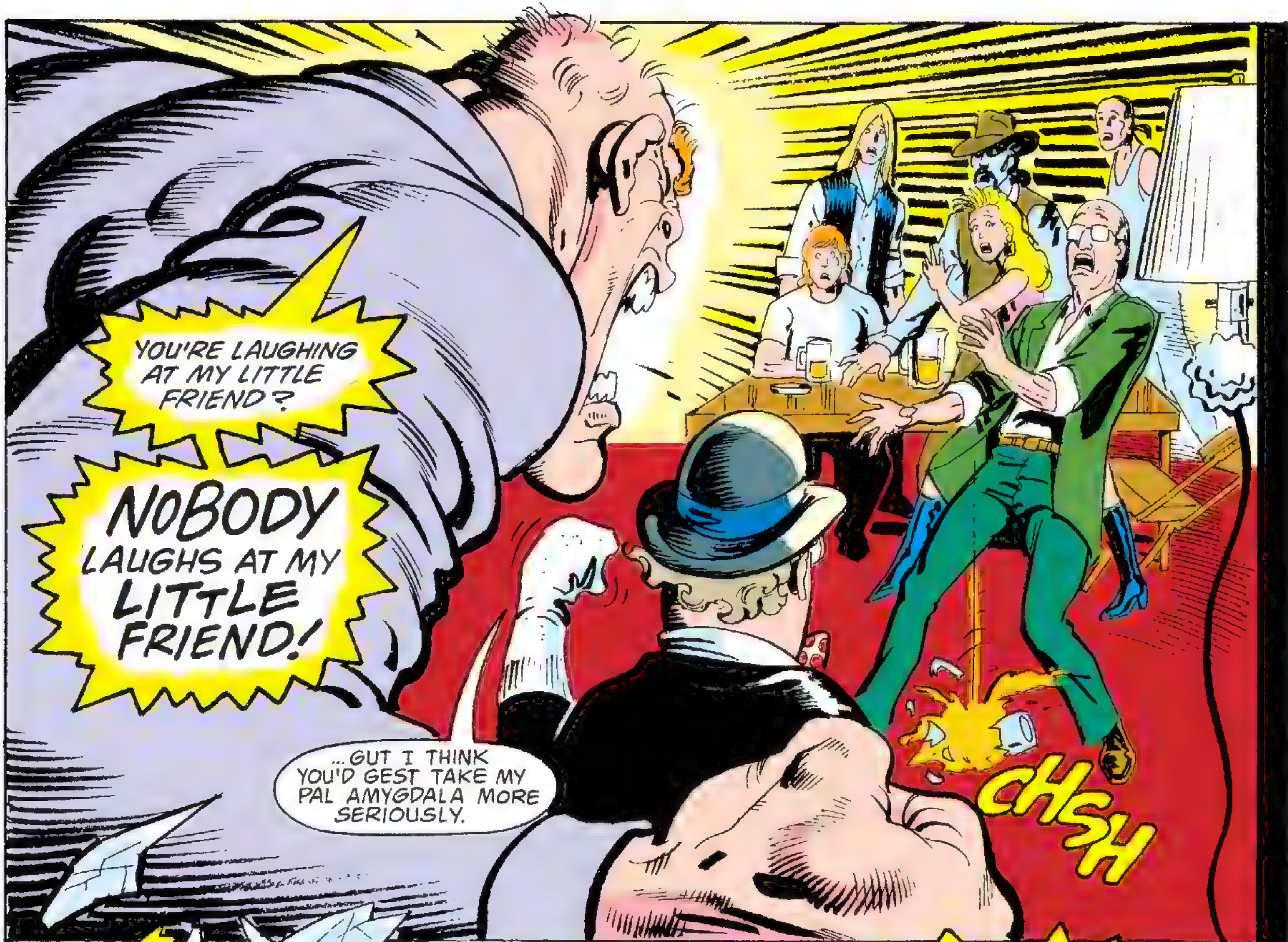
YET.

THAT'S WHY WE HAVE TO MOVE FAST. THE REALLY DANGEROUS ONES WILL BE THOSE WHO GET A CHANCE TO PLAN.









YOU'RE LAUGHING  
AT MY LITTLE  
FRIEND?

**Nobody**  
LAUGHS AT MY  
LITTLE  
FRIEND!

...GUT I THINK  
YOU'D GEST TAKE MY  
PAL AMYGDALA MORE  
SERIOUSLY.

**CHSH**

**POM**

**WHAT'S SO  
FUNNY?**

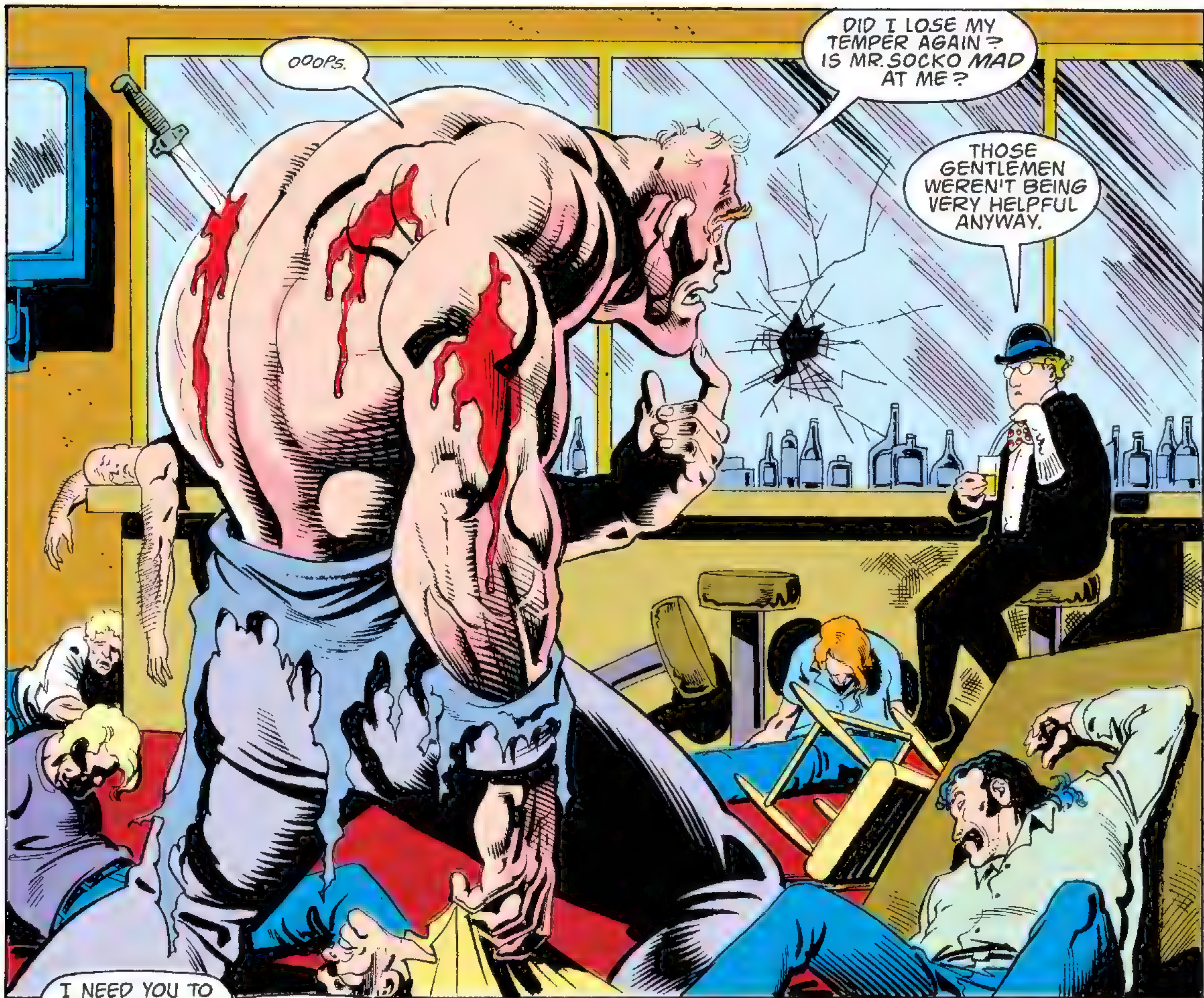


SOCKO, PERHAPS  
YOU'RE NOT UP TO  
THE DEMANDS I'M  
PLACING ON YOU. AND  
AMYGDALA IS TOO...  
ENERGETIC.

I NEED  
SOMEONE WITH  
FINESSE TO  
HELP ME FIND  
SCARFACE.

**SLURP**





OOOPS.

DID I LOSE MY TEMPER AGAIN? IS MR. SOCKO MAD AT ME?

THOSE GENTLEMEN WEREN'T BEING VERY HELPFUL ANYWAY.

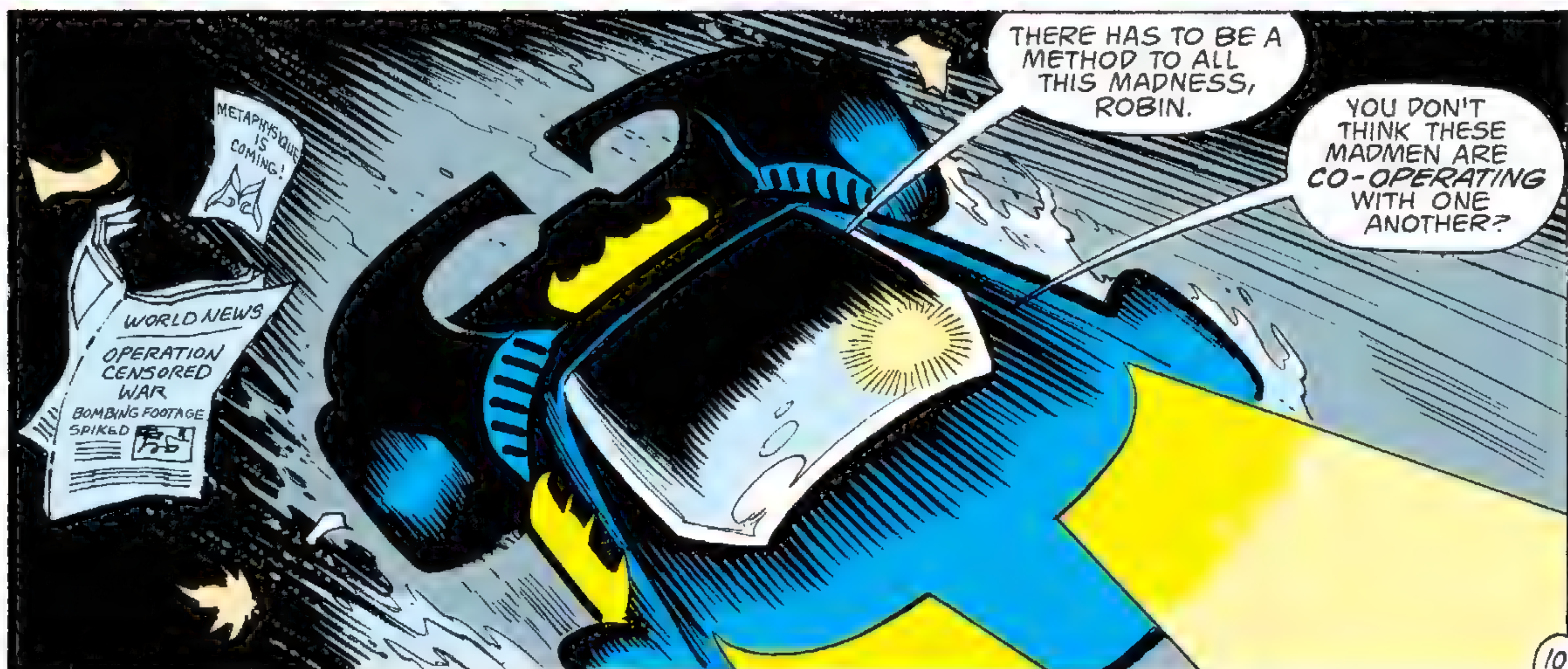
I NEED YOU TO HELP ME GET SOMETHING.

AND THEN WE'LL FIND MR. SCARFACE?

PRECISELY.

AND THEN I'LL GET MY MEDICINE?

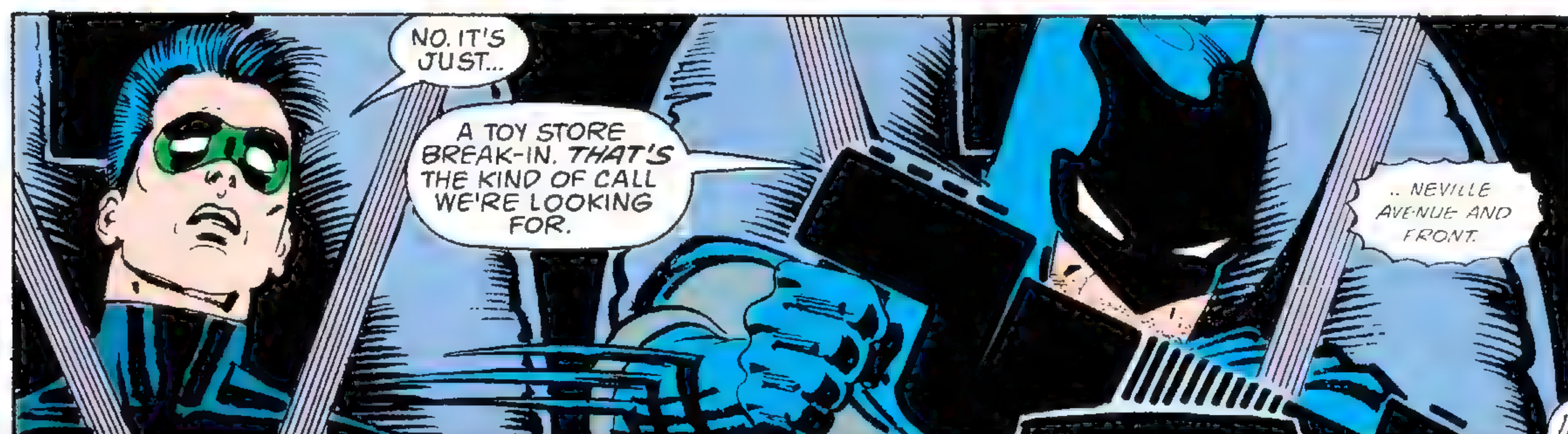
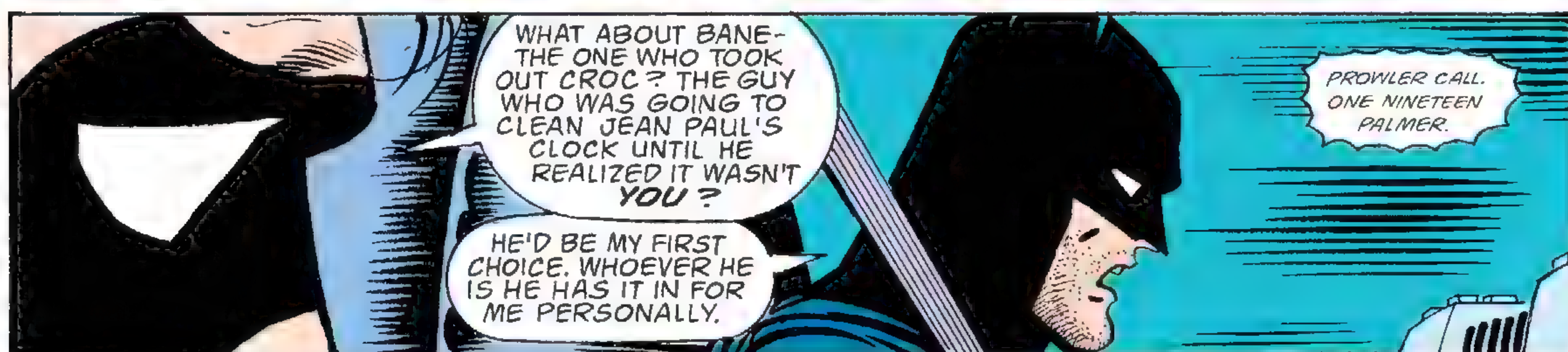
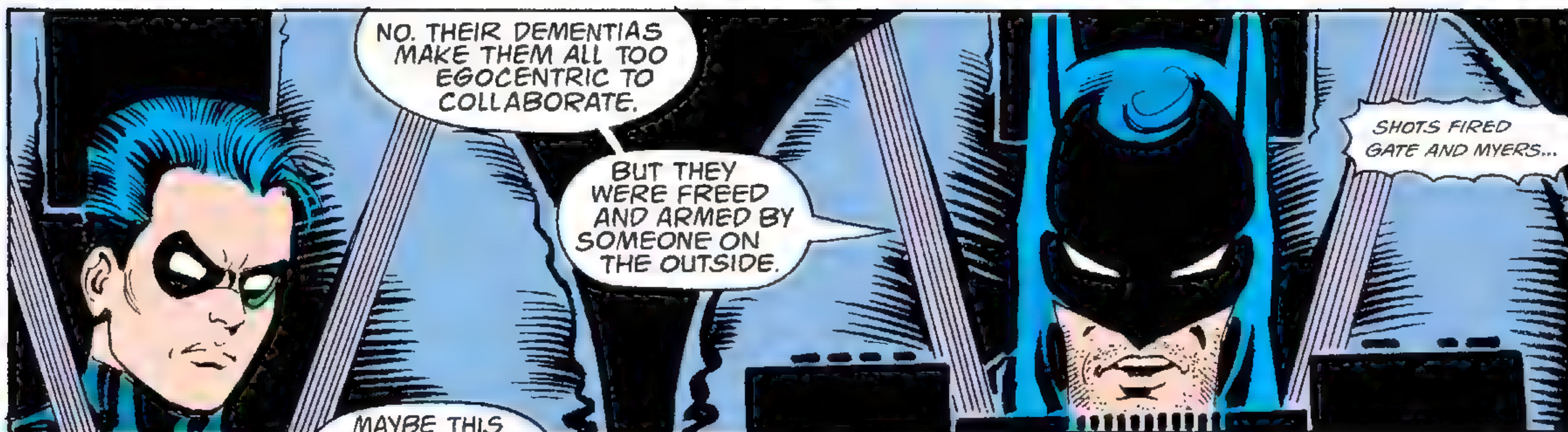
WE'LL SEE.



THERE HAS TO BE A METHOD TO ALL THIS MADNESS, ROBIN.

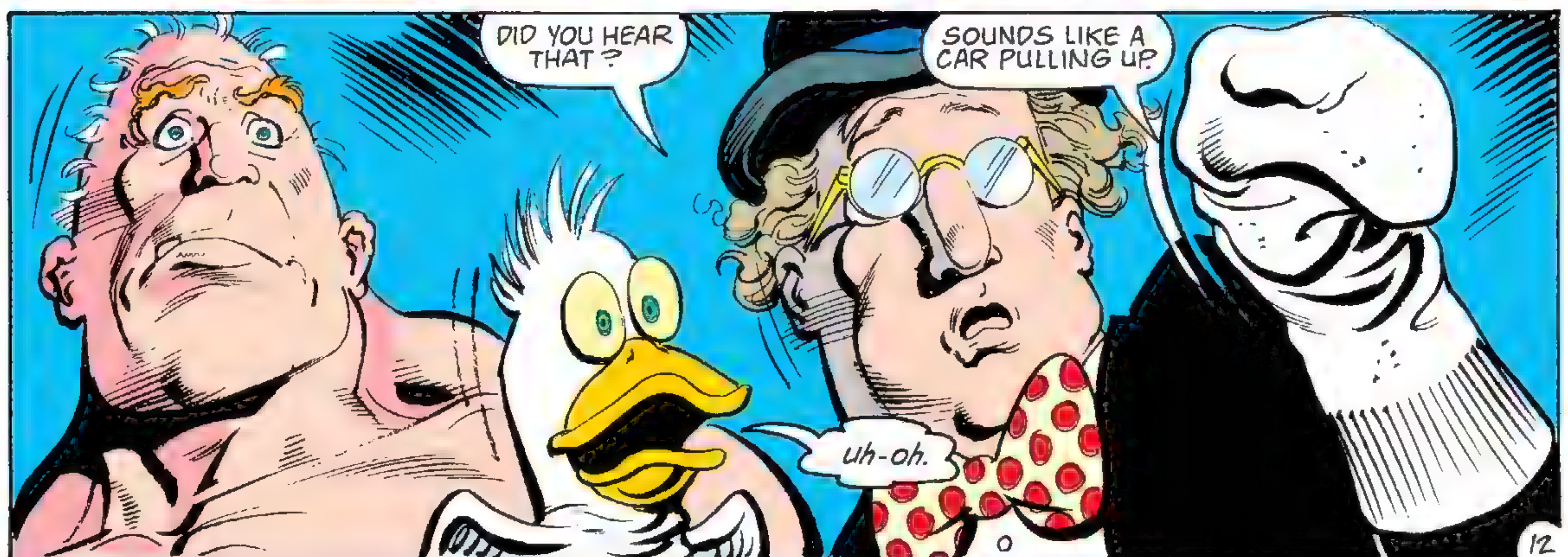
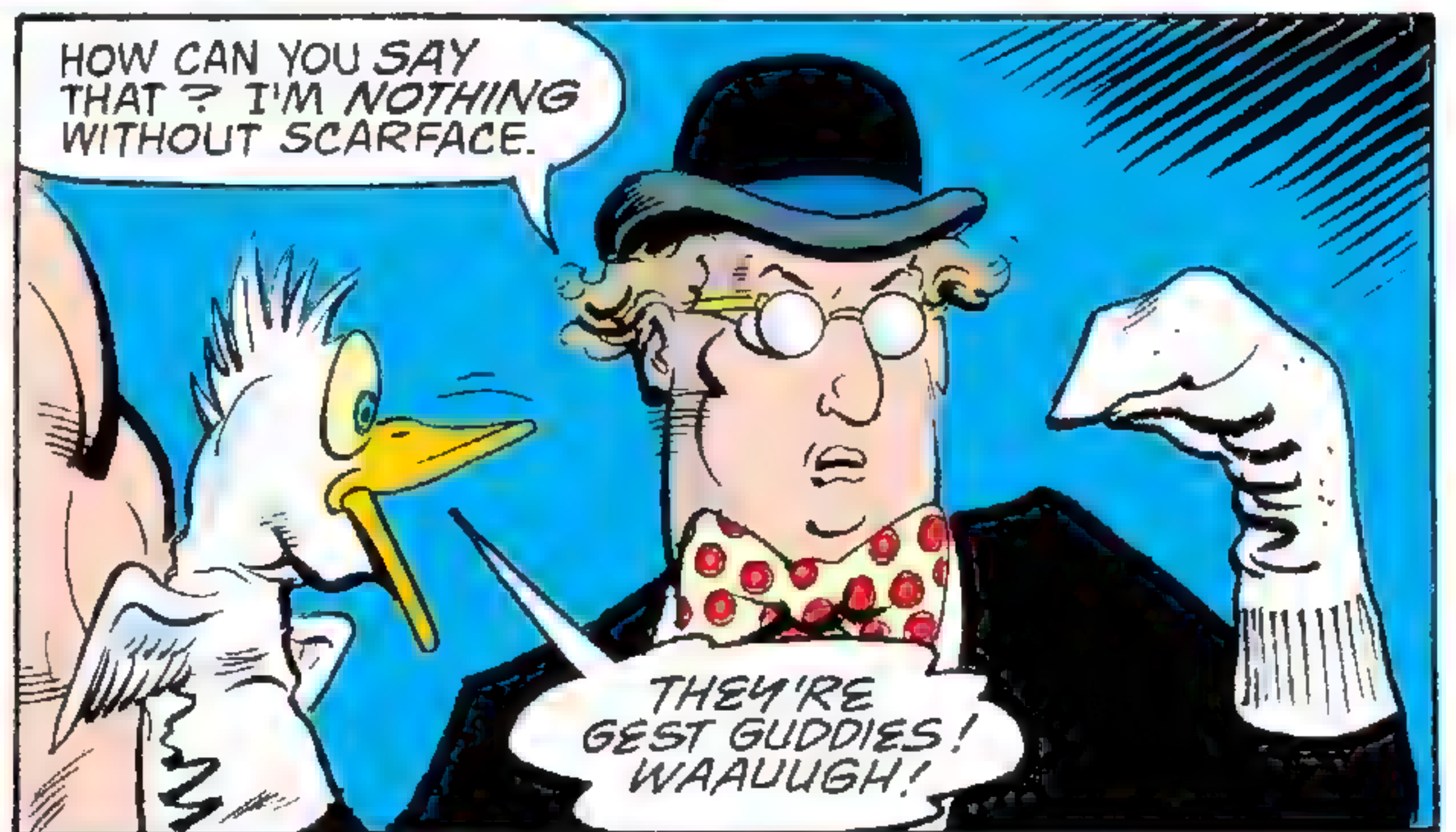
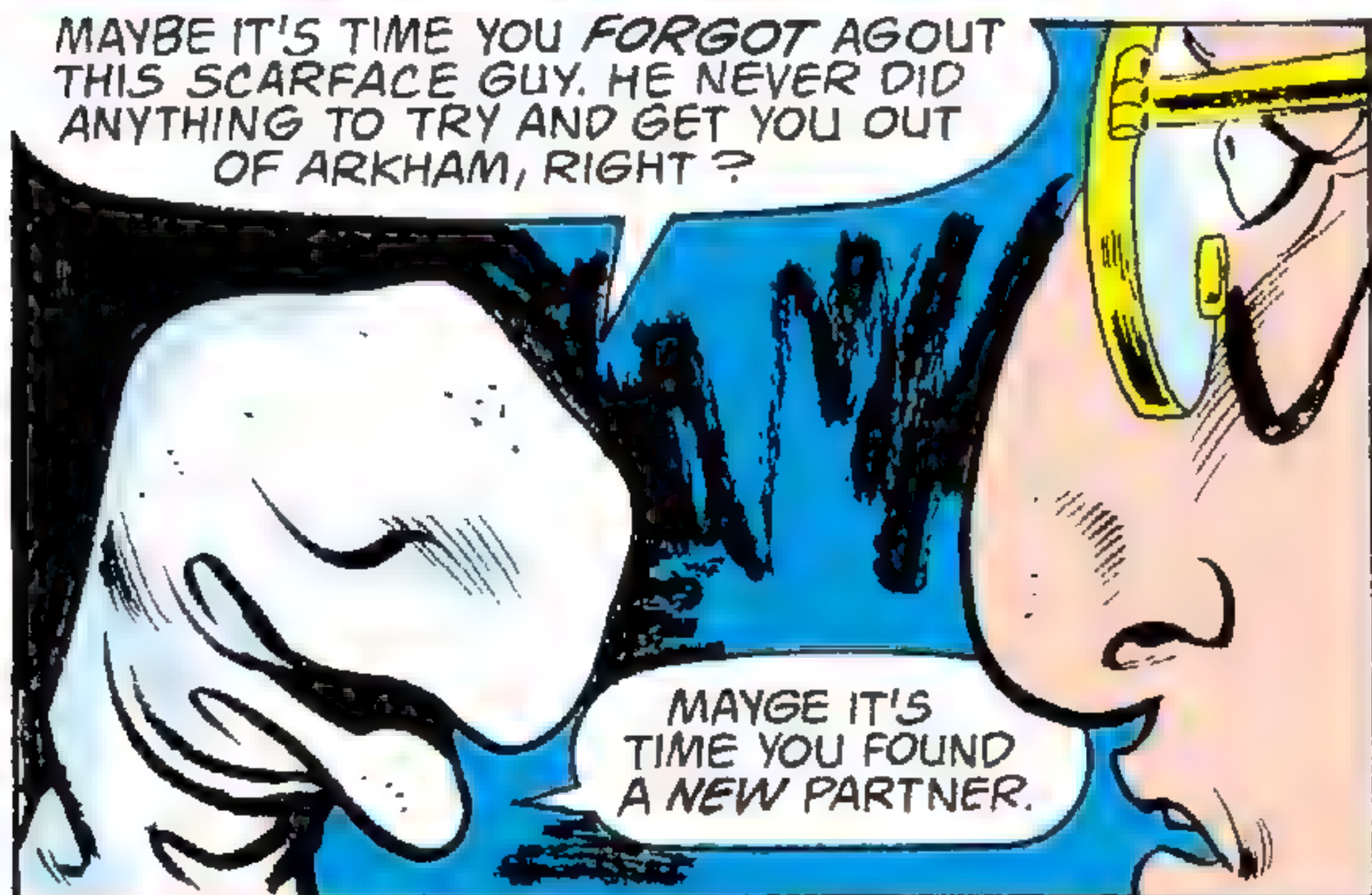
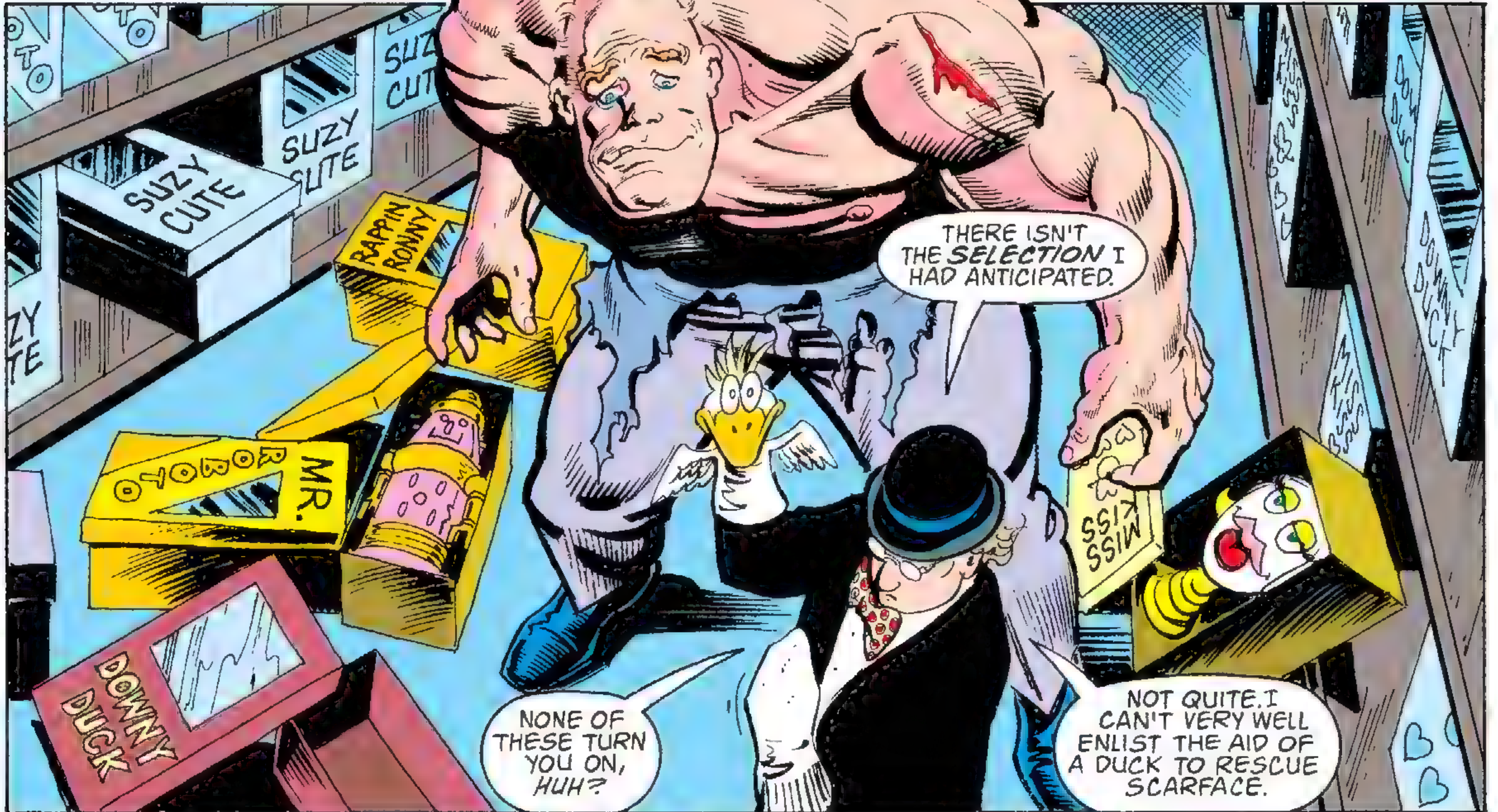
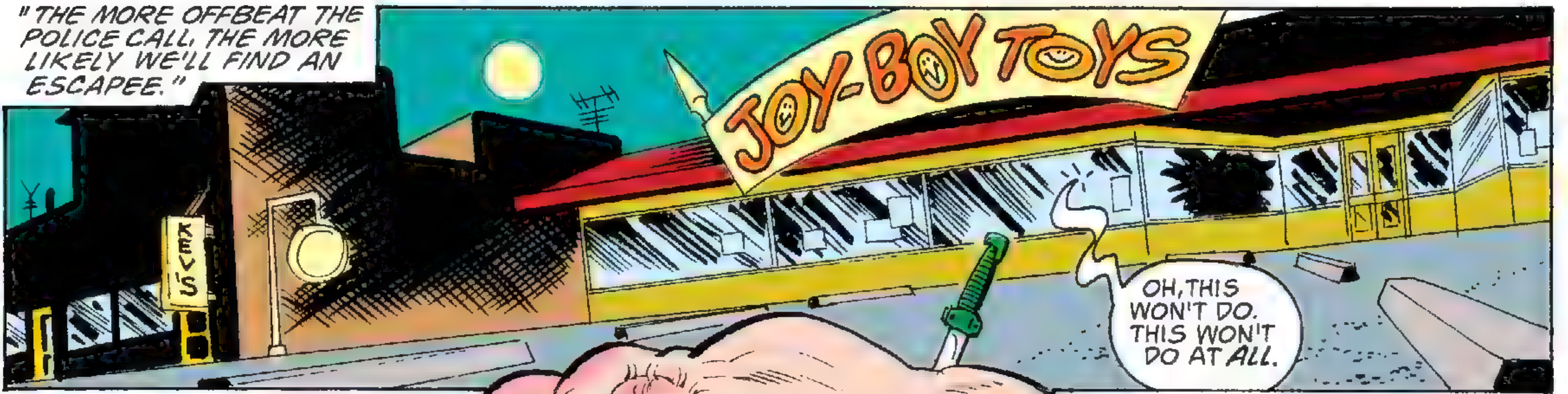
YOU DON'T THINK THESE MADMEN ARE CO-OPERATING WITH ONE ANOTHER?



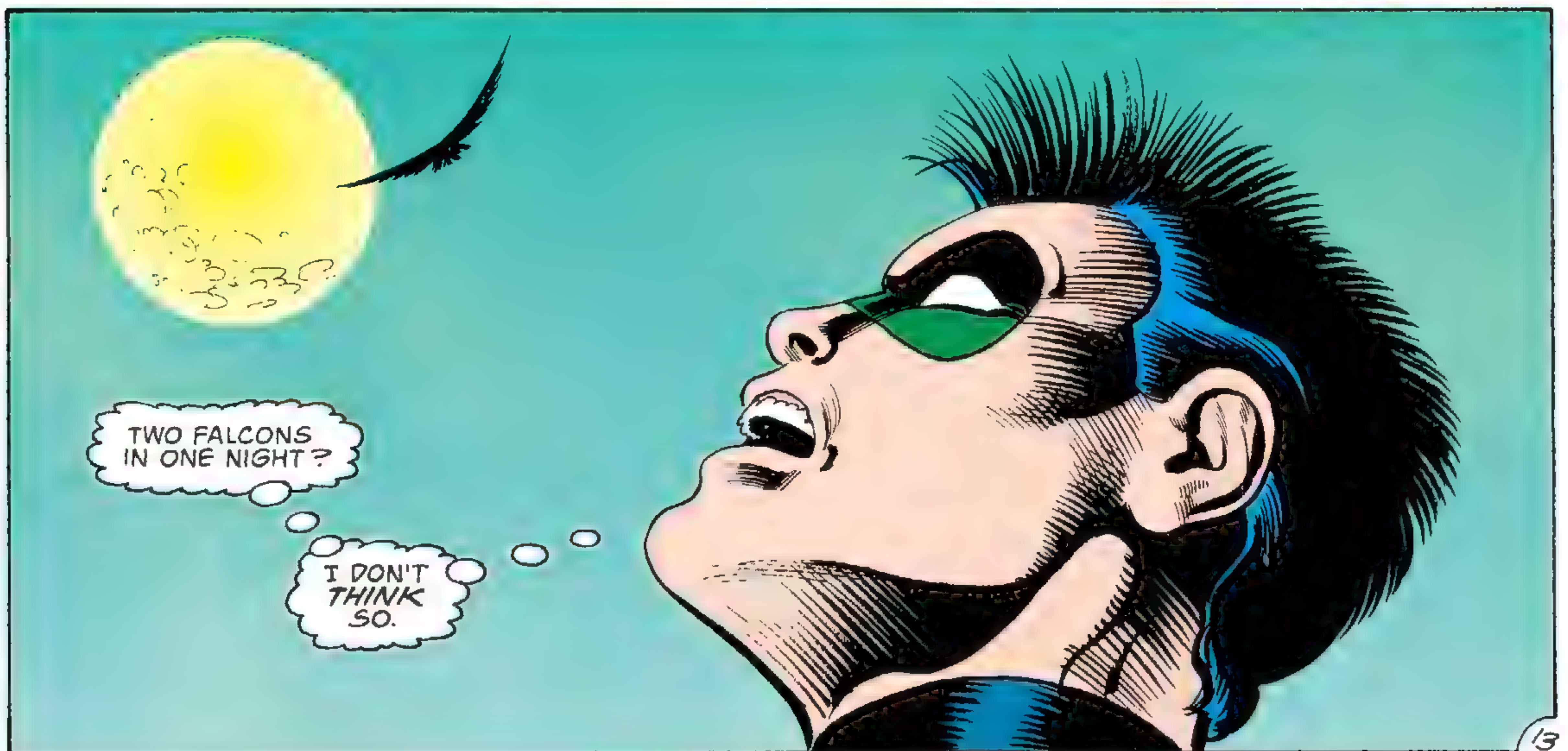
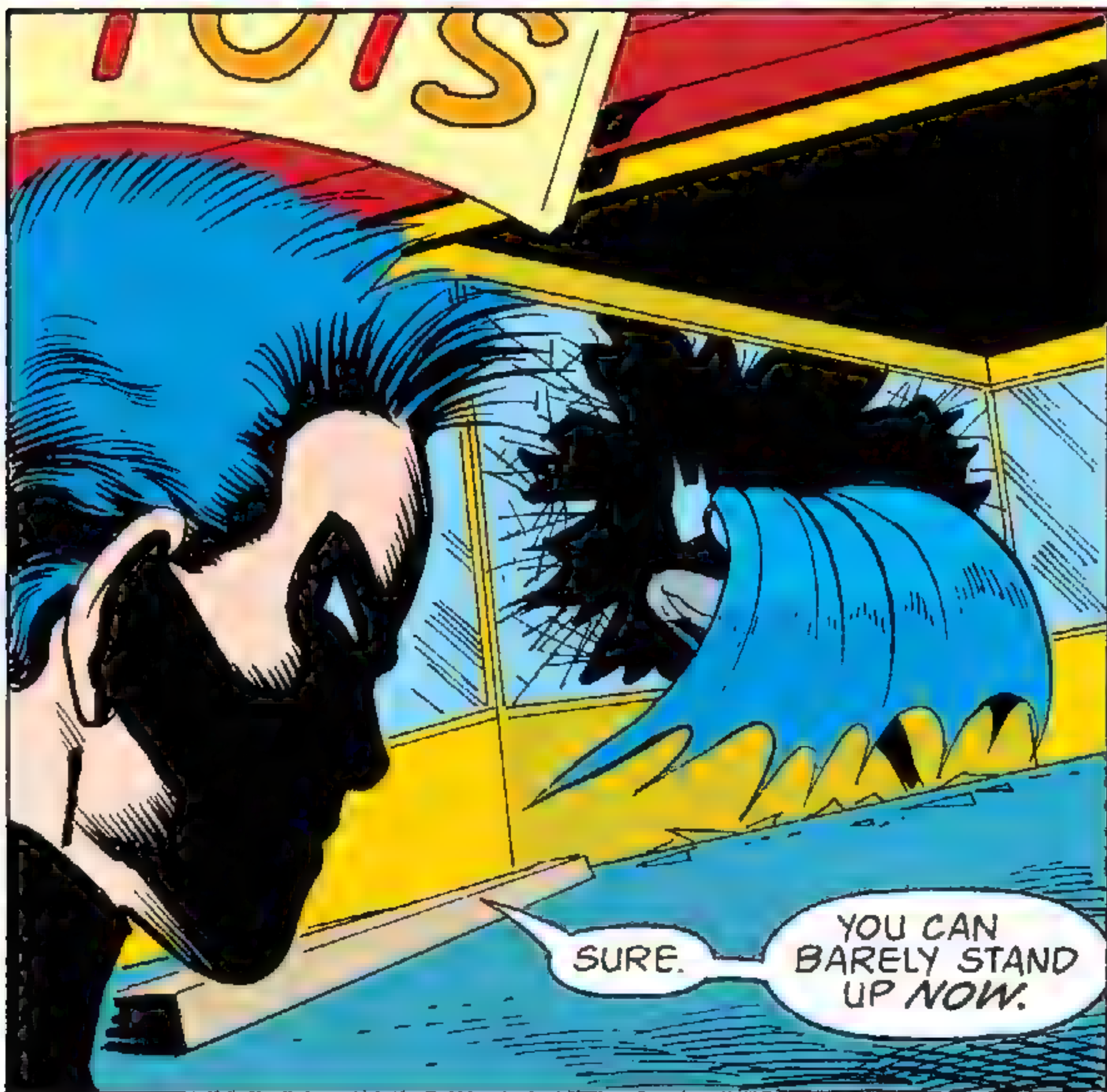
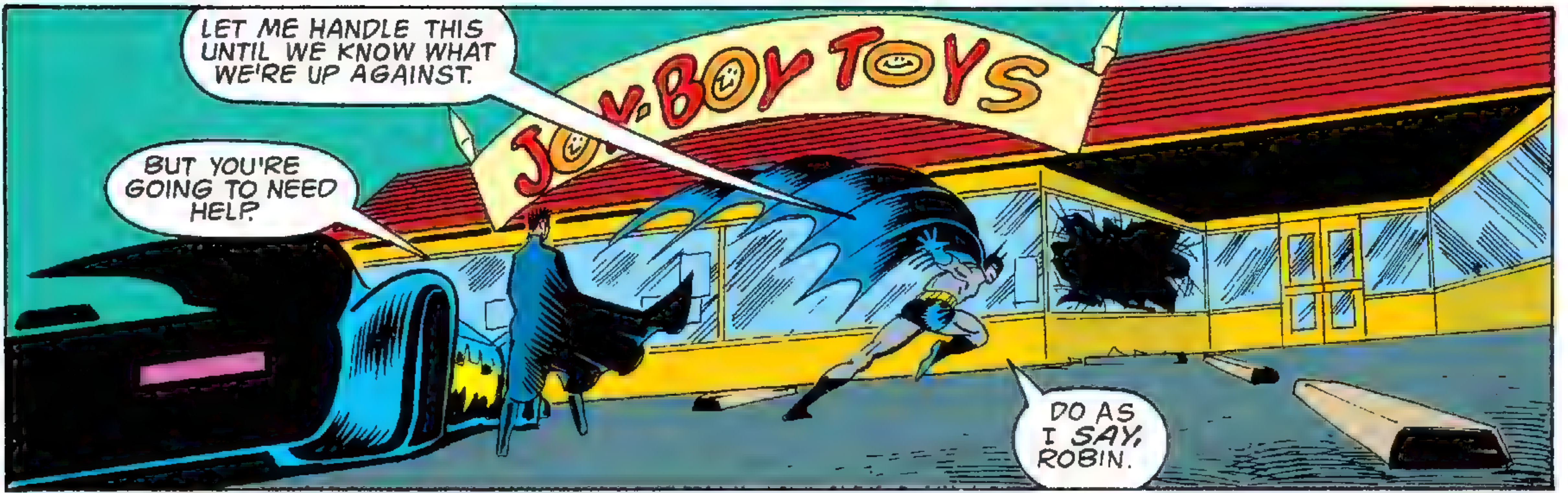




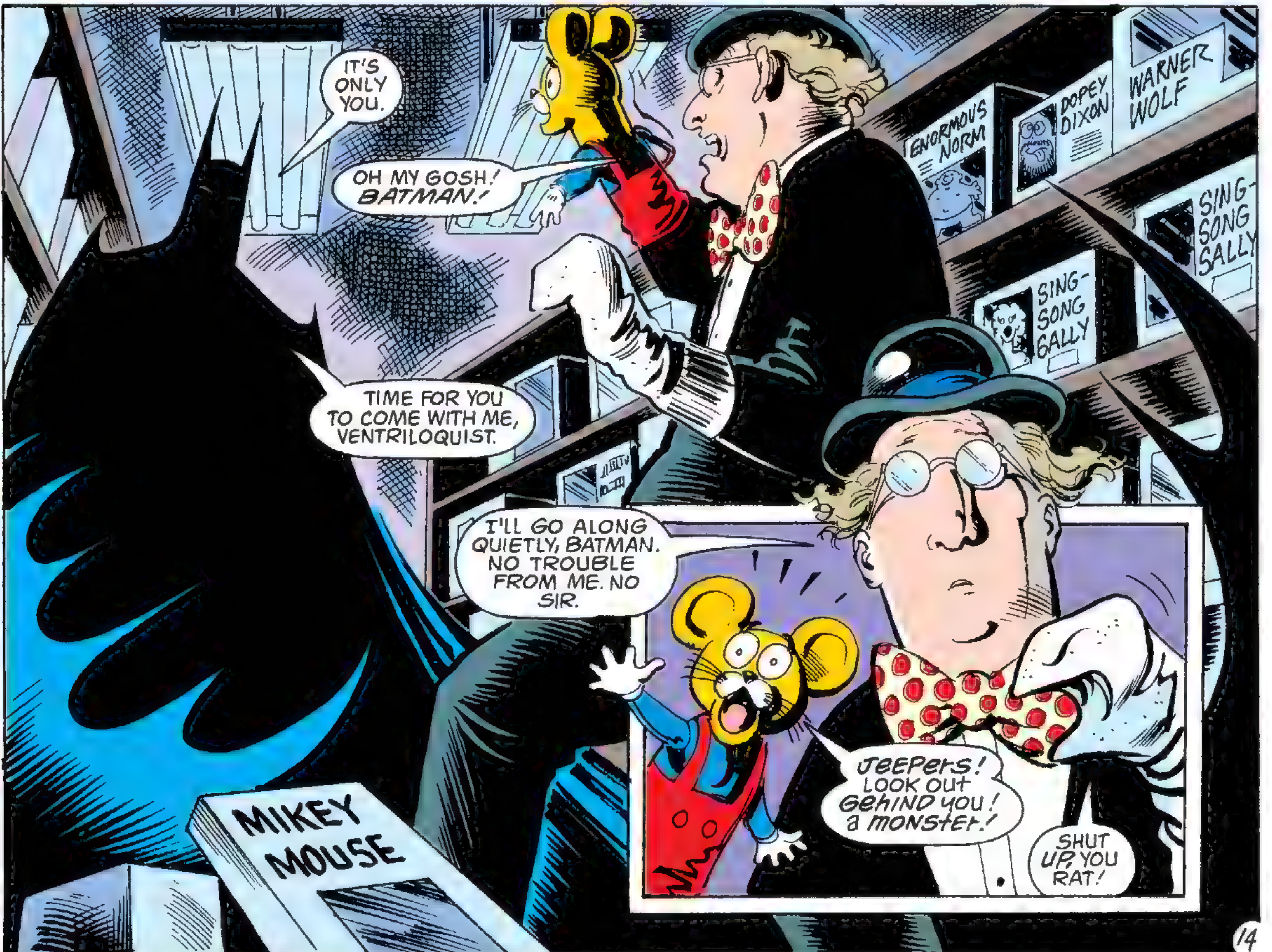
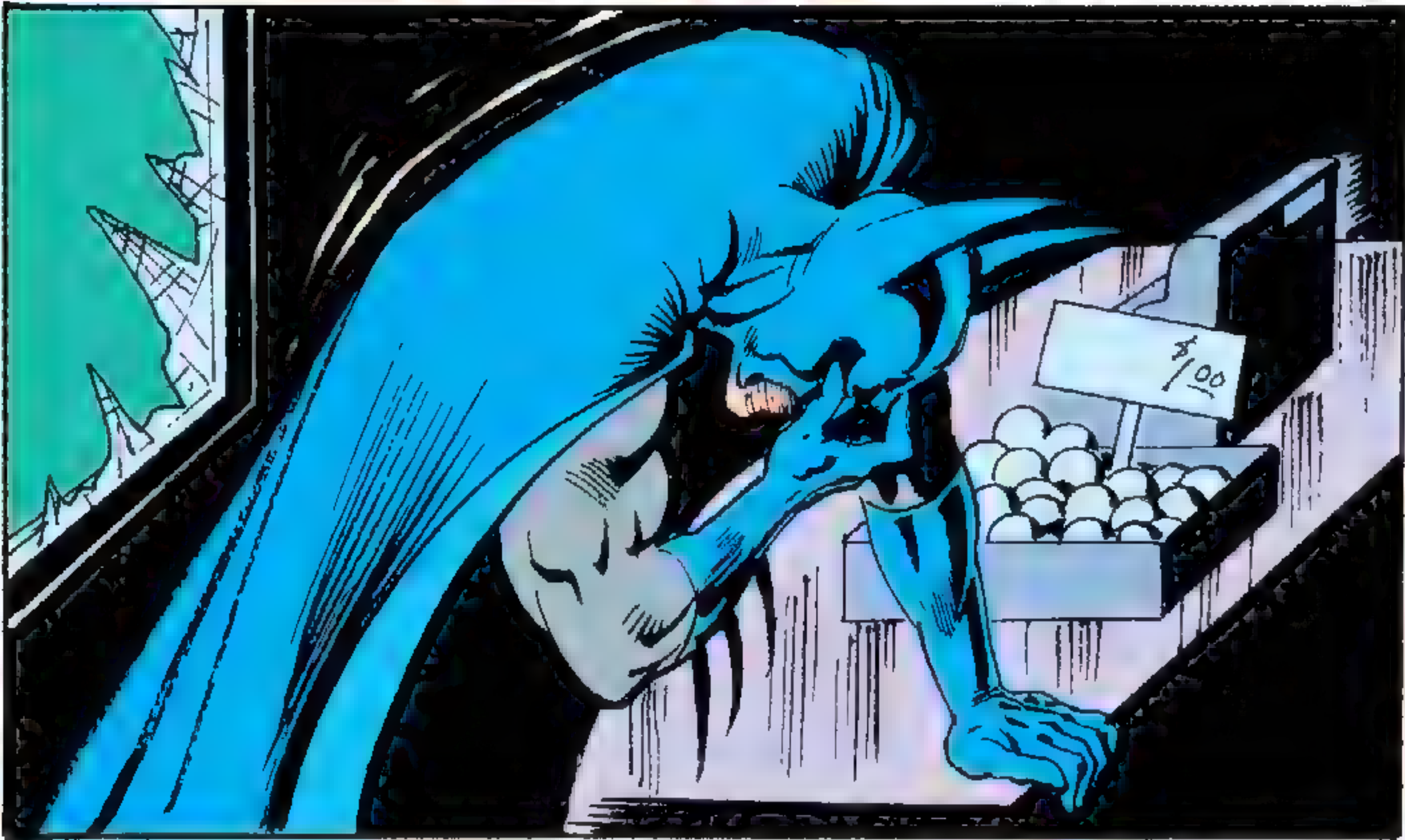
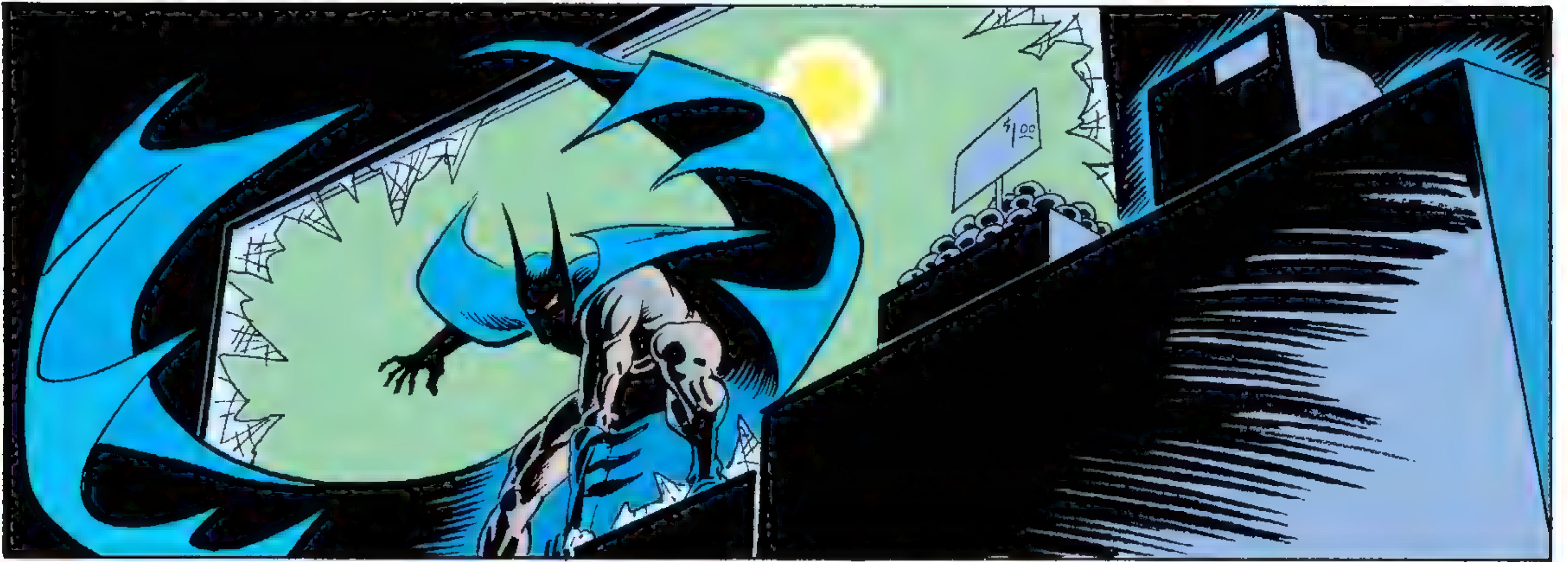
"THE MORE OFFBEAT THE POLICE CALL, THE MORE LIKELY WE'LL FIND AN ESCAPEE."















I'M NOT  
IN THE MOOD  
FOR OLD JOKE,  
VENTRILOQUIST.

KEEP YOUR  
HANDS WHERE  
I CAN SEE  
THEM.



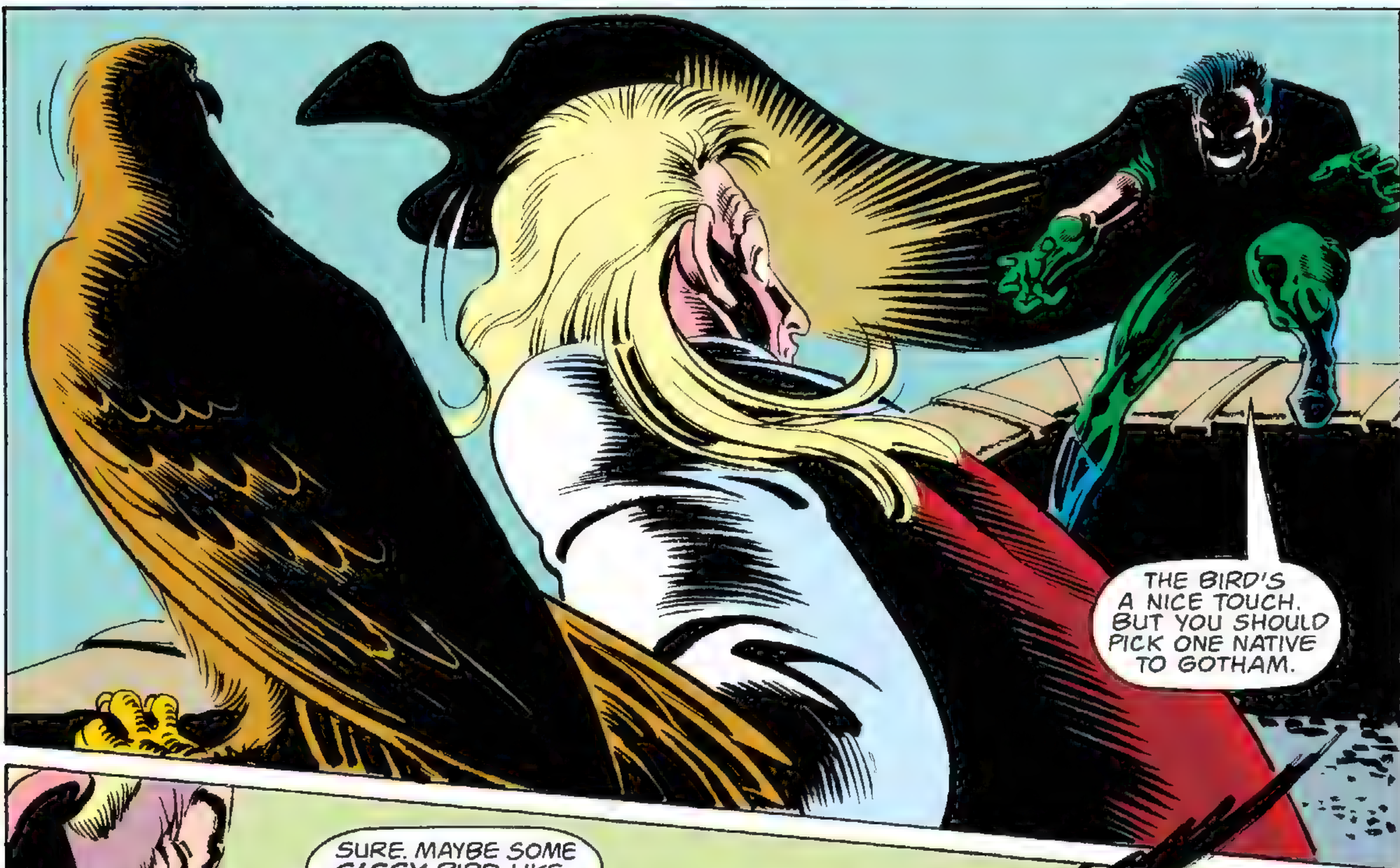
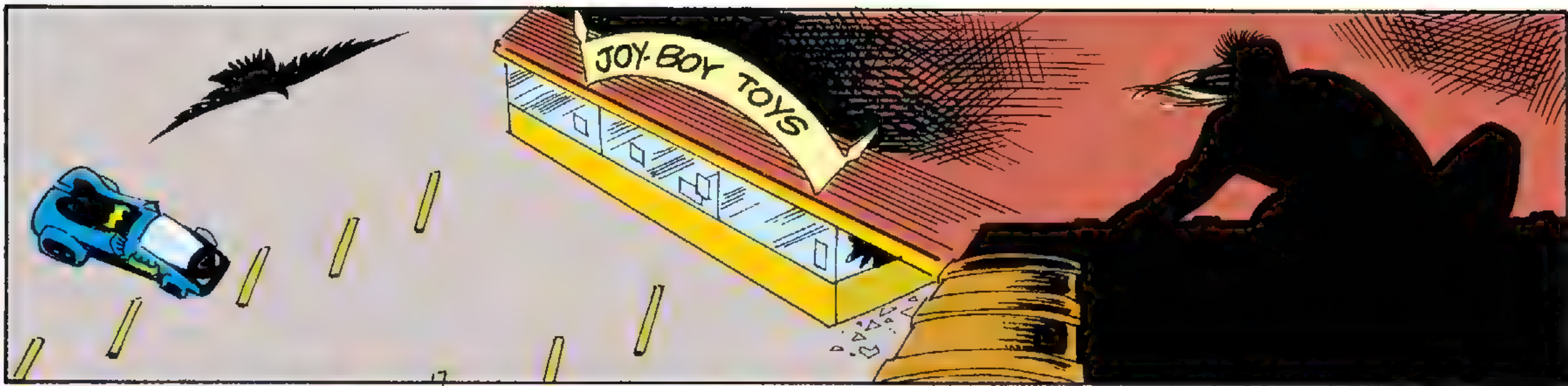
LEAVE MY  
FRIENDS  
ALONE!



DON'T TOUCH  
THEM!

I'LL HURT YOU!  
I'LL HURT YOU  
REAL BAD!

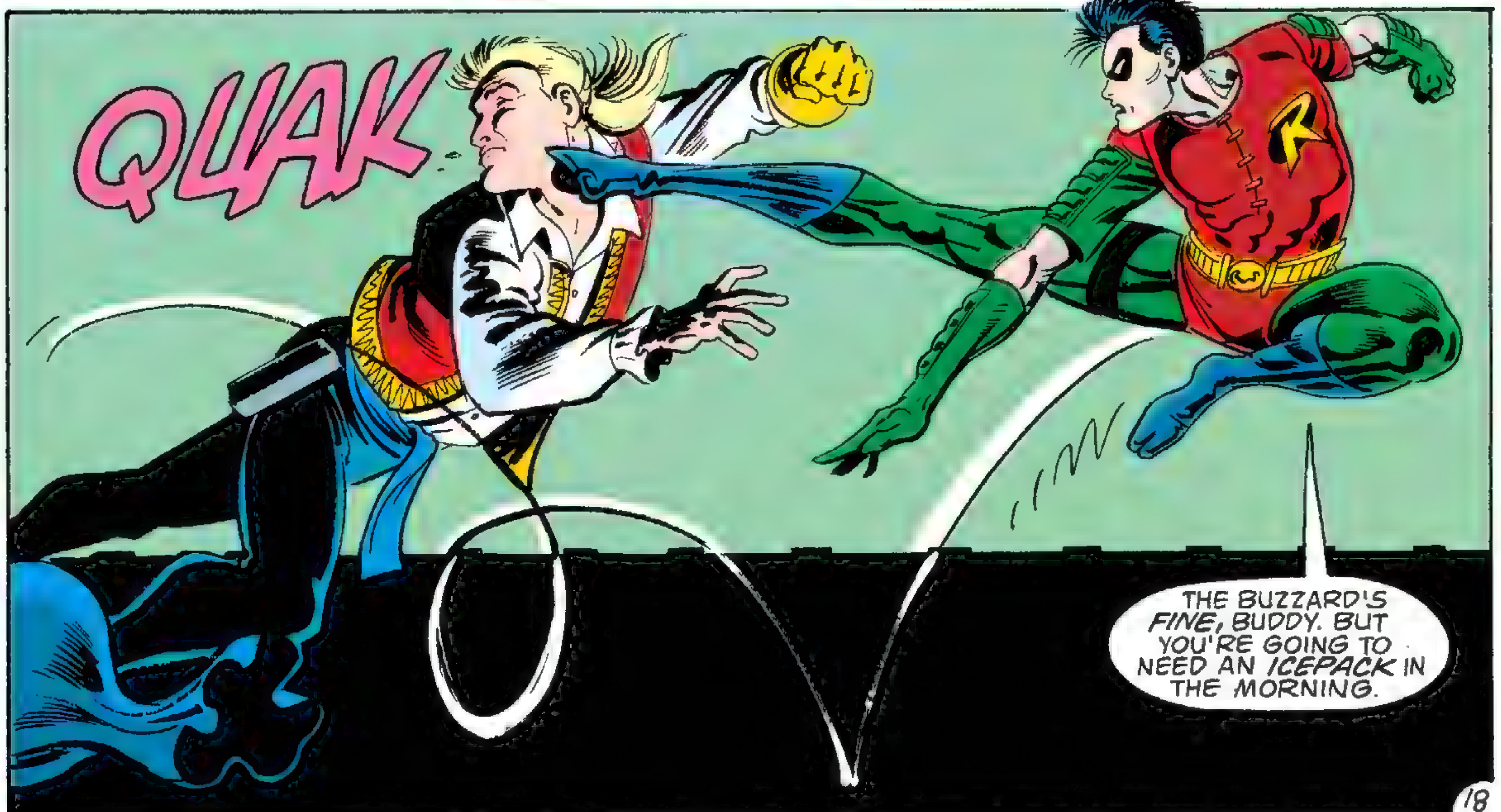
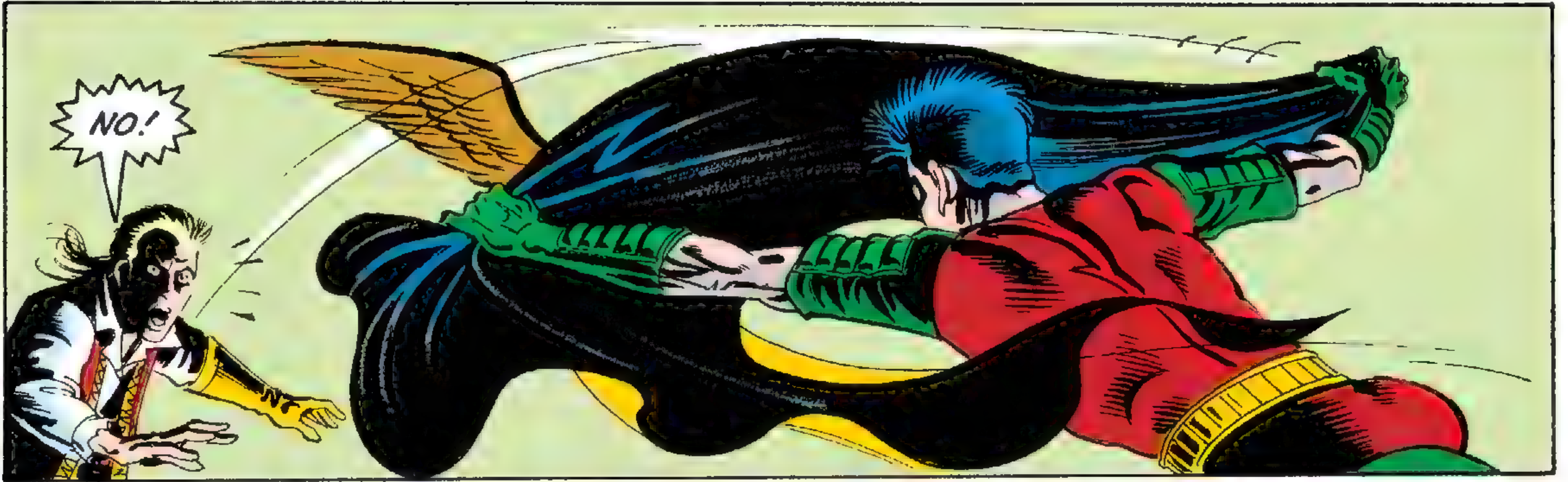








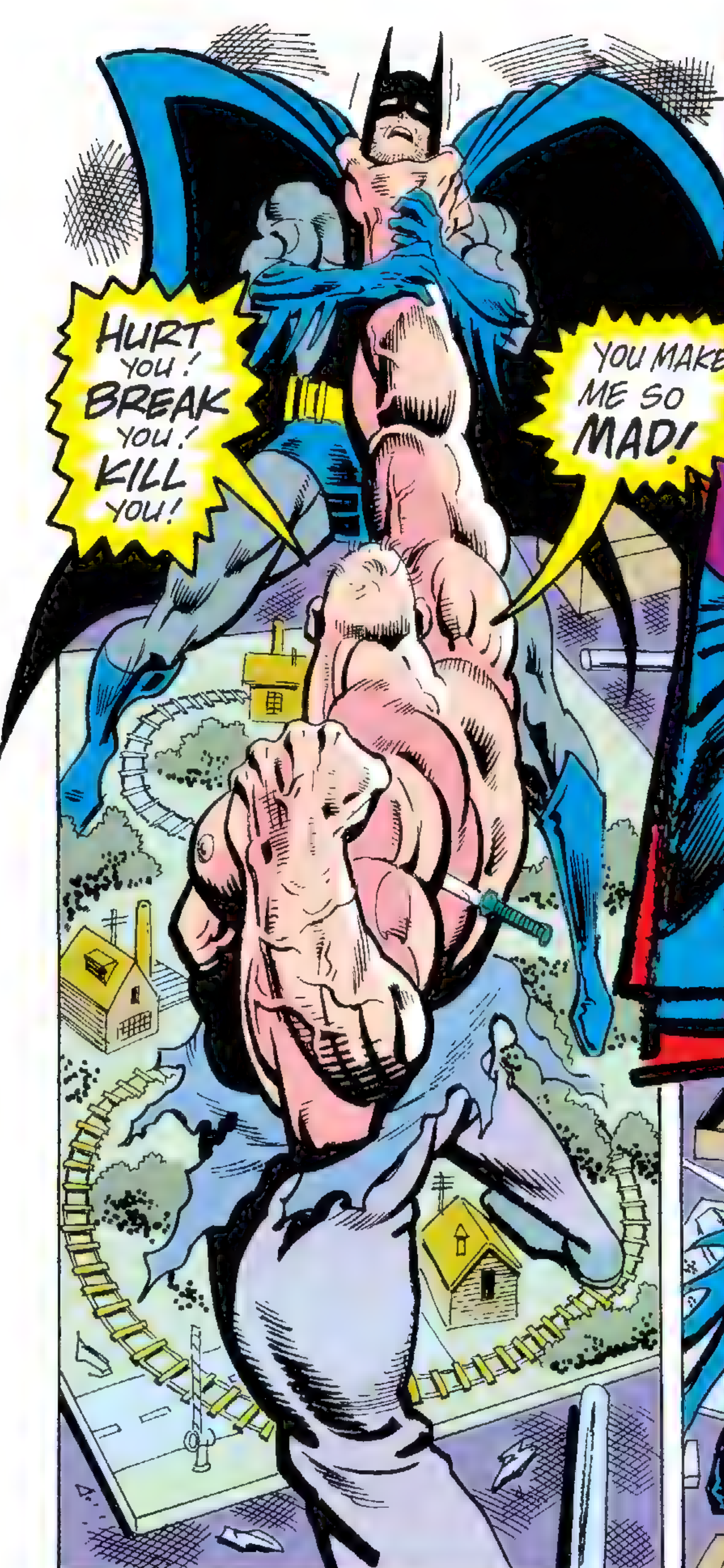






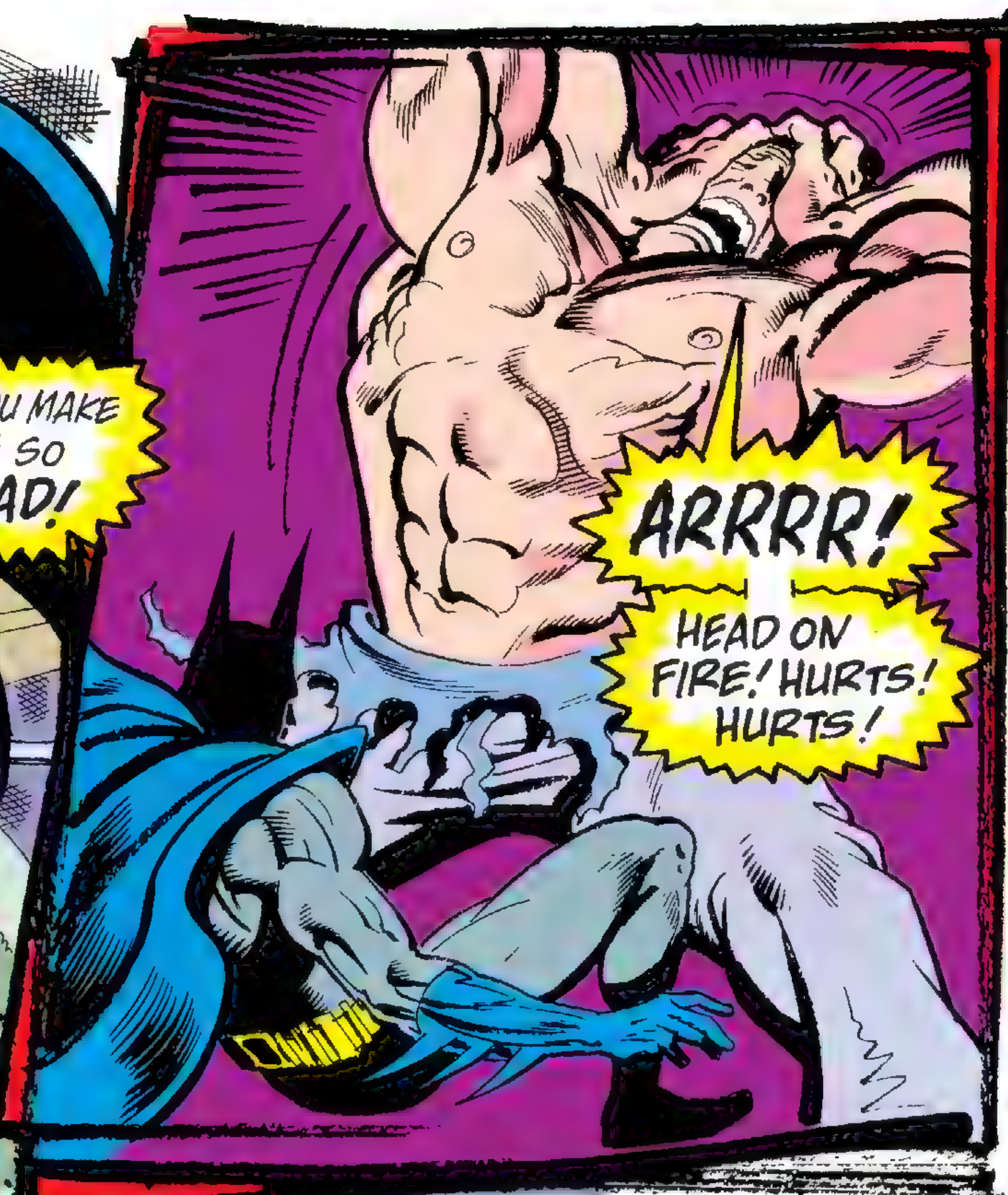






HURT  
YOU!  
BREAK  
YOU!  
KILL  
YOU!

YOU MAKE  
ME SO  
MAD!



ARRRR!  
HEAD ON  
FIRE! HURTS!  
HURTS!



I HAVE  
JUST WHAT  
YOU NEED,  
AMYGDALA.

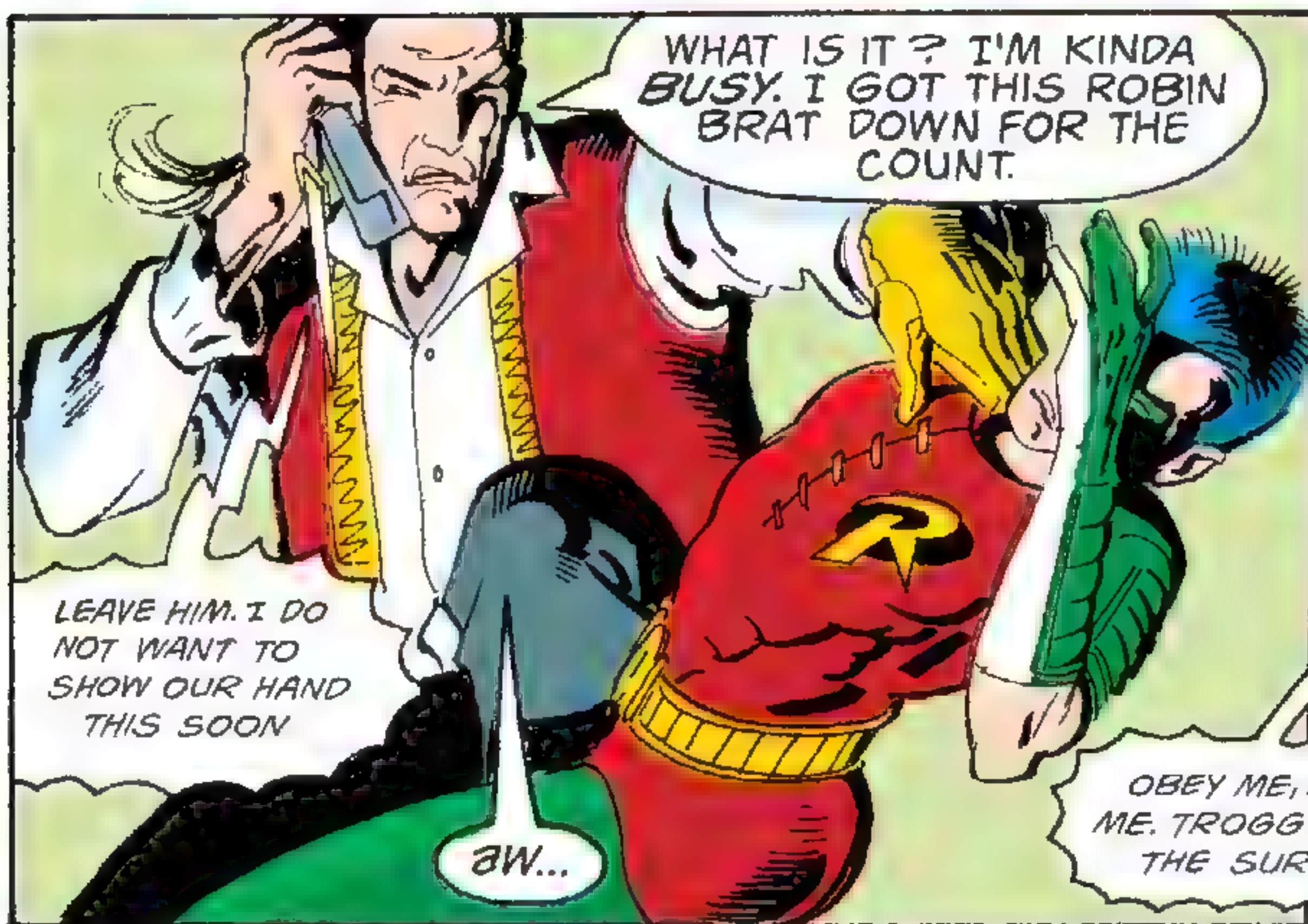
WANT MY MEDICINE... TAKE  
PAIN AWAY... CAN I HAVE  
MY MEDICINE... NOW?



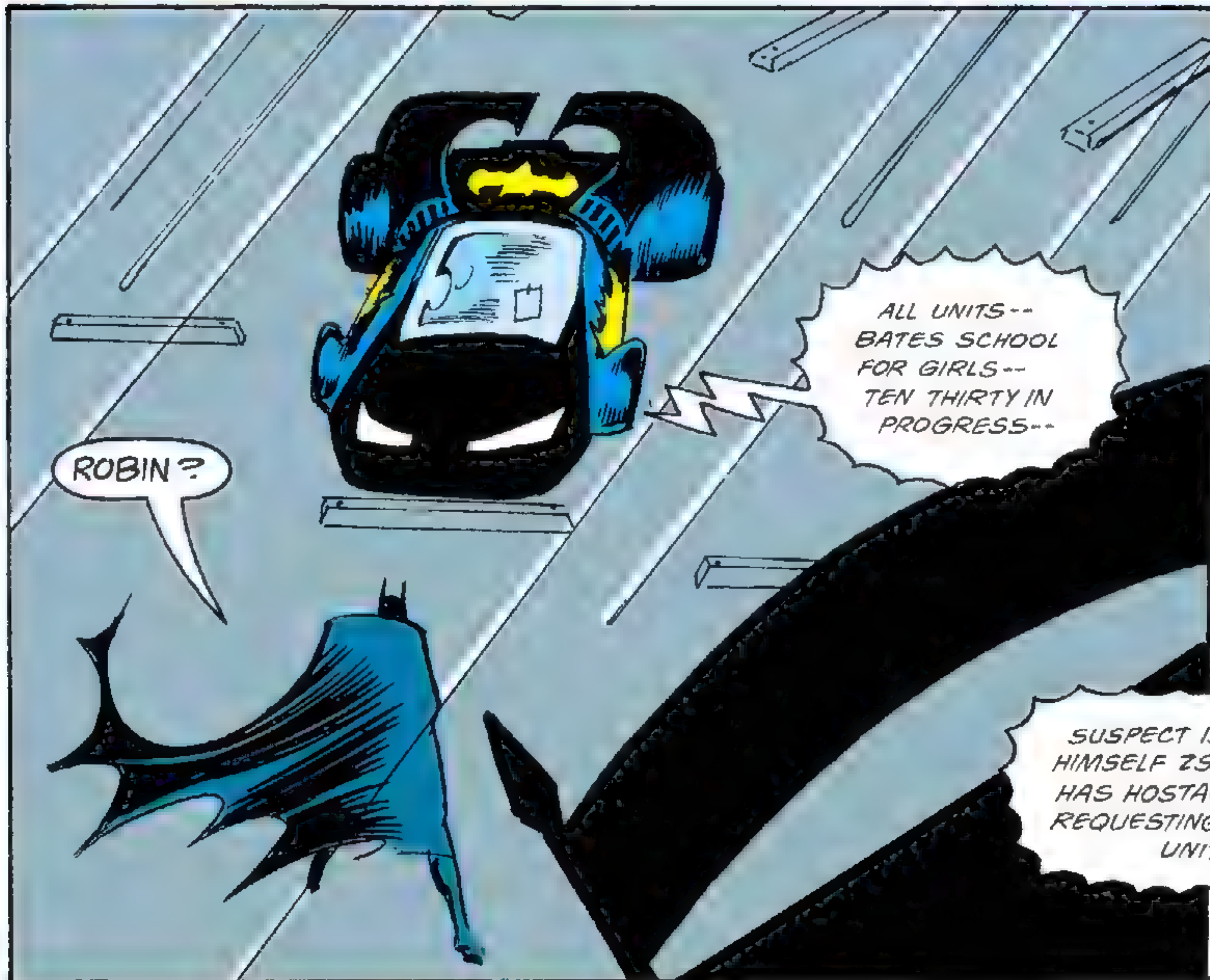
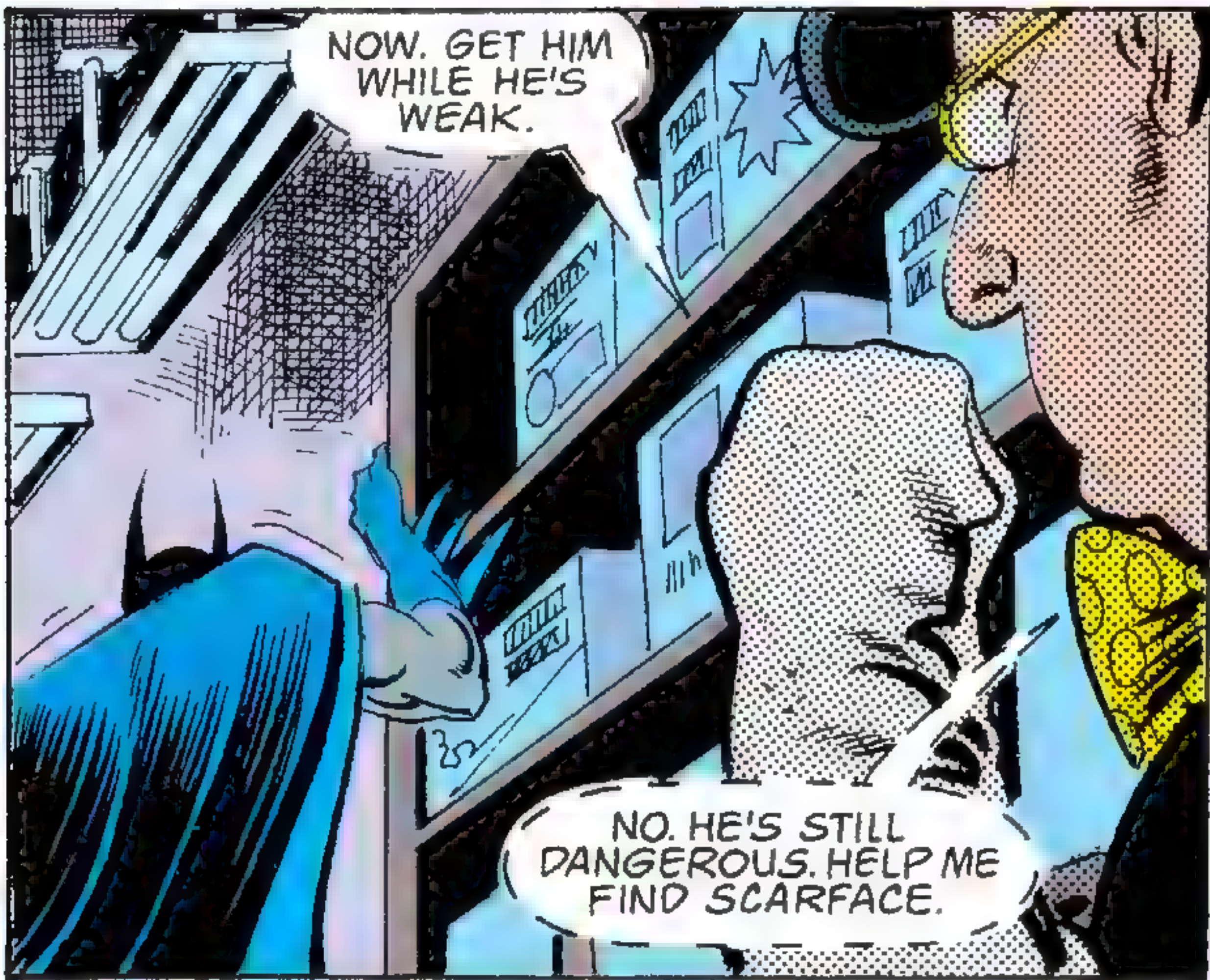
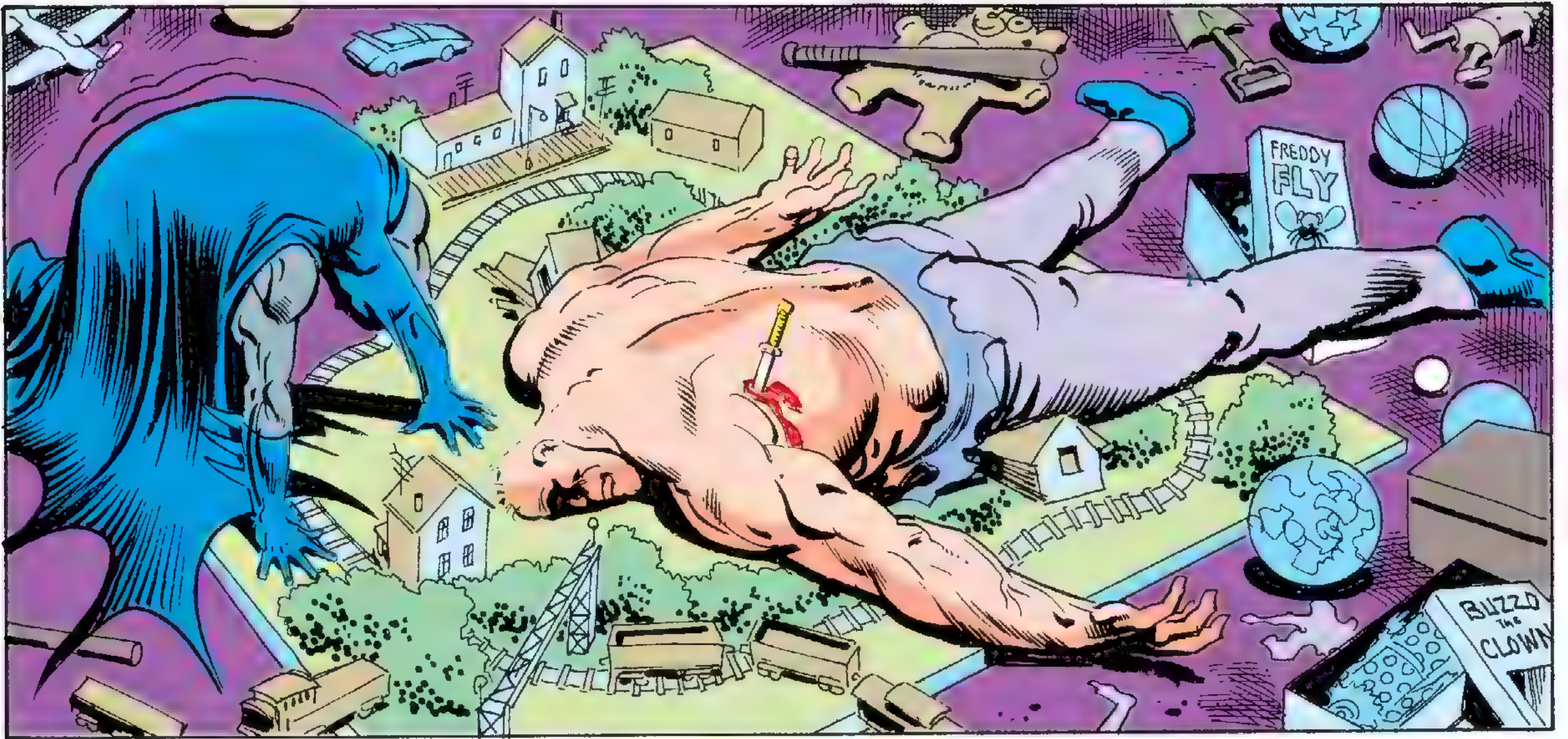
THE SAME  
DOSE I GAVE  
YOU LAST TIME  
WE MET.

UuNnH!











KNIGHTFALL

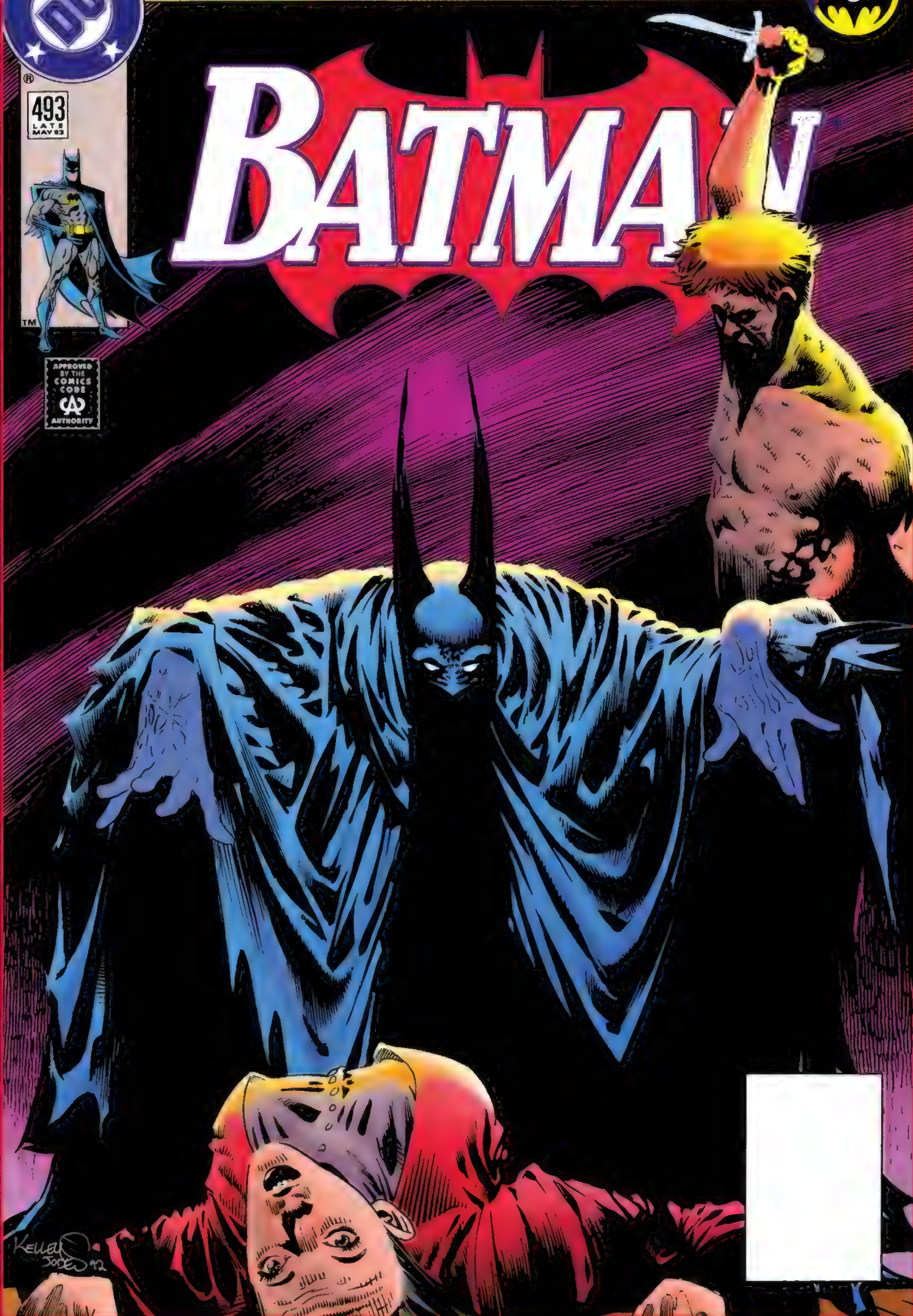
3



493  
LATE  
MAY 93



# BATMAN



KELLEY JORDAN





Cover art by  
**KELLEY JONES**



A dynamic comic book panel showing Batman in his Batmobile, racing through a city at night. The Batmobile is a sleek, blue and black vehicle with a prominent yellow bat symbol on its side. It is moving quickly, as indicated by the motion lines and the blurred background of city buildings and streets. Batman is visible in the foreground, wearing his iconic blue and black suit and cowl, looking forward with a determined expression. The scene is set in a dark, urban environment with tall buildings and a street that curves into the distance. The overall tone is urgent and action-packed.

RACING FOR MY GRAVE,  
ALREADY DEAD.

BUT I CAN'T REST, NOT AFTER  
THE ARKHAM BREAKOUT--  
THIRTY-ODD MURDERS  
ALREADY, AND ALL THE WORK  
OF MINOR MADMEN.

OF THE FOUR MAJOR ONES TO MAKE A  
MOVE, THE MAD HATTER AND AMYGDALA  
HAVE BEEN CAPTURED, THE VENTRILOQUIST  
IS STILL AT LARGE, AND THE FILM FREAK  
HIMSELF HAS BEEN MURDERED.

IT'S BARELY BEGUN,  
BUT THE GRAVE IS  
RUSHING CLOSER,  
AND NOW...

SKSS: ZSASZ, SERIAL KILLER  
RECENTLY ESCAPED FROM ARKHAM SKSS:  
HOLED UP IN THE BATES SCHOOL FOR  
WOMEN SKSS: HOSTAGES SKSS: SEND  
TACTICAL SQUADS AT ONCE SKSS:

NO REST, NOT FOR  
THE WICKED... NOR  
THOSE WHO DARE  
DEAL WITH THEM.

# FEELS LIKE

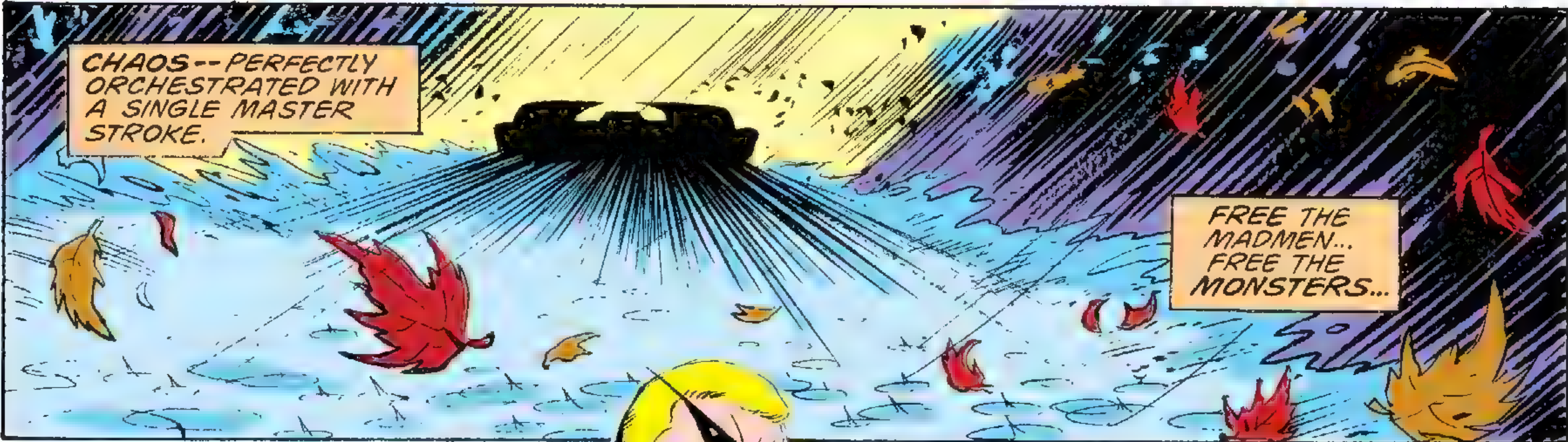
DOUG MOENCH-WRITER / NORM BREYFOGLE-ARTIST / ADRIENNE ROY-COLORIST / TIM HARKINS-LETTERER  
JORDAN B. GORFINKEL-ASS'T. EDITOR / DENNIS O'NEIL-EDITOR / BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE





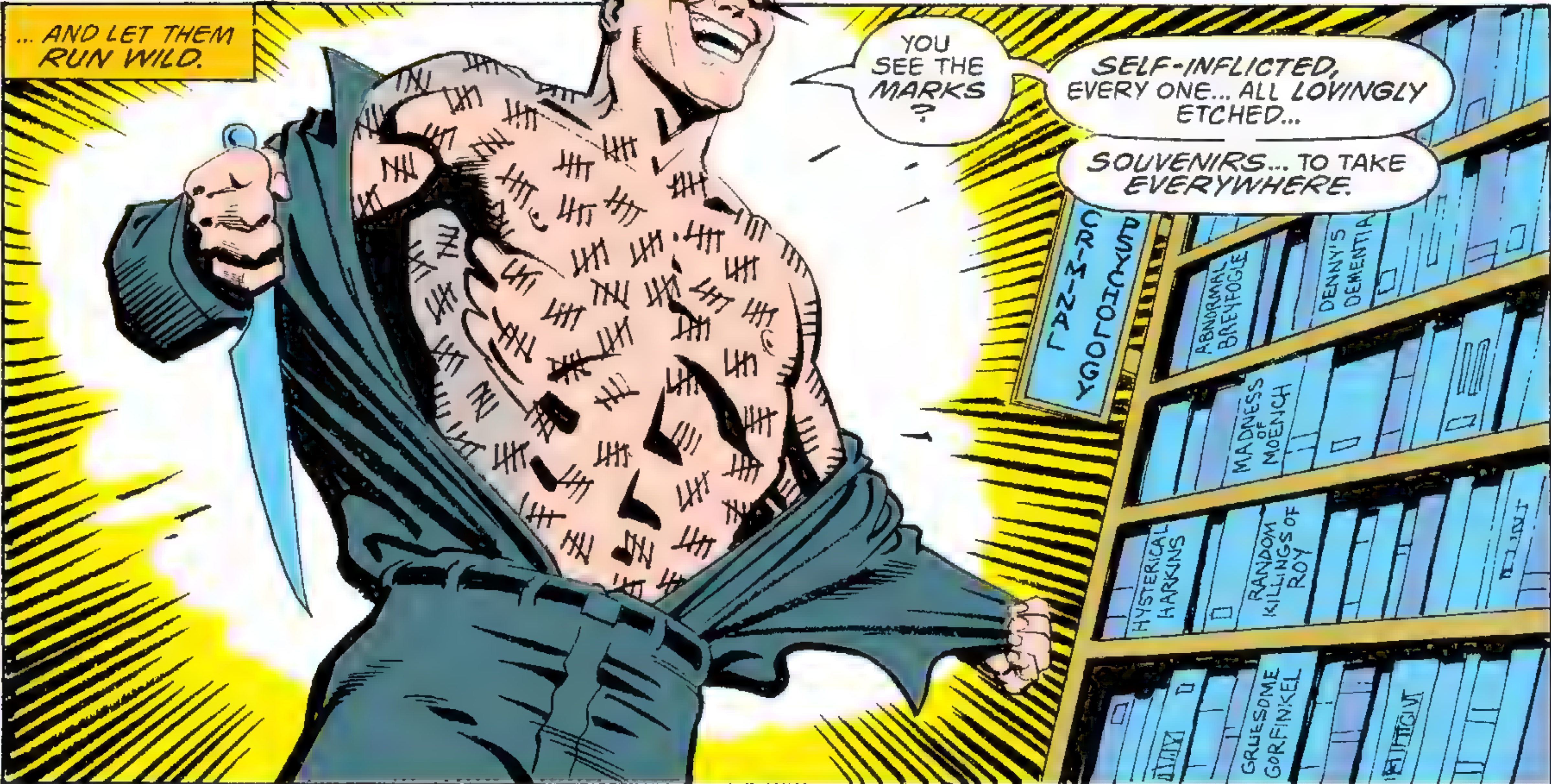
SHOULD BE GOING AFTER THE ONE BEHIND IT ALL, THE STONE-COLD CENTER AROUND WHICH ALL THE REST RAGES... BANE.

BUT TO REACH HIM... GOT TO FIGHT THROUGH THE STORM ITSELF.



CHAOS-- PERFECTLY ORCHESTRATED WITH A SINGLE MASTER STROKE.

FREE THE MADMEN... FREE THE MONSTERS...

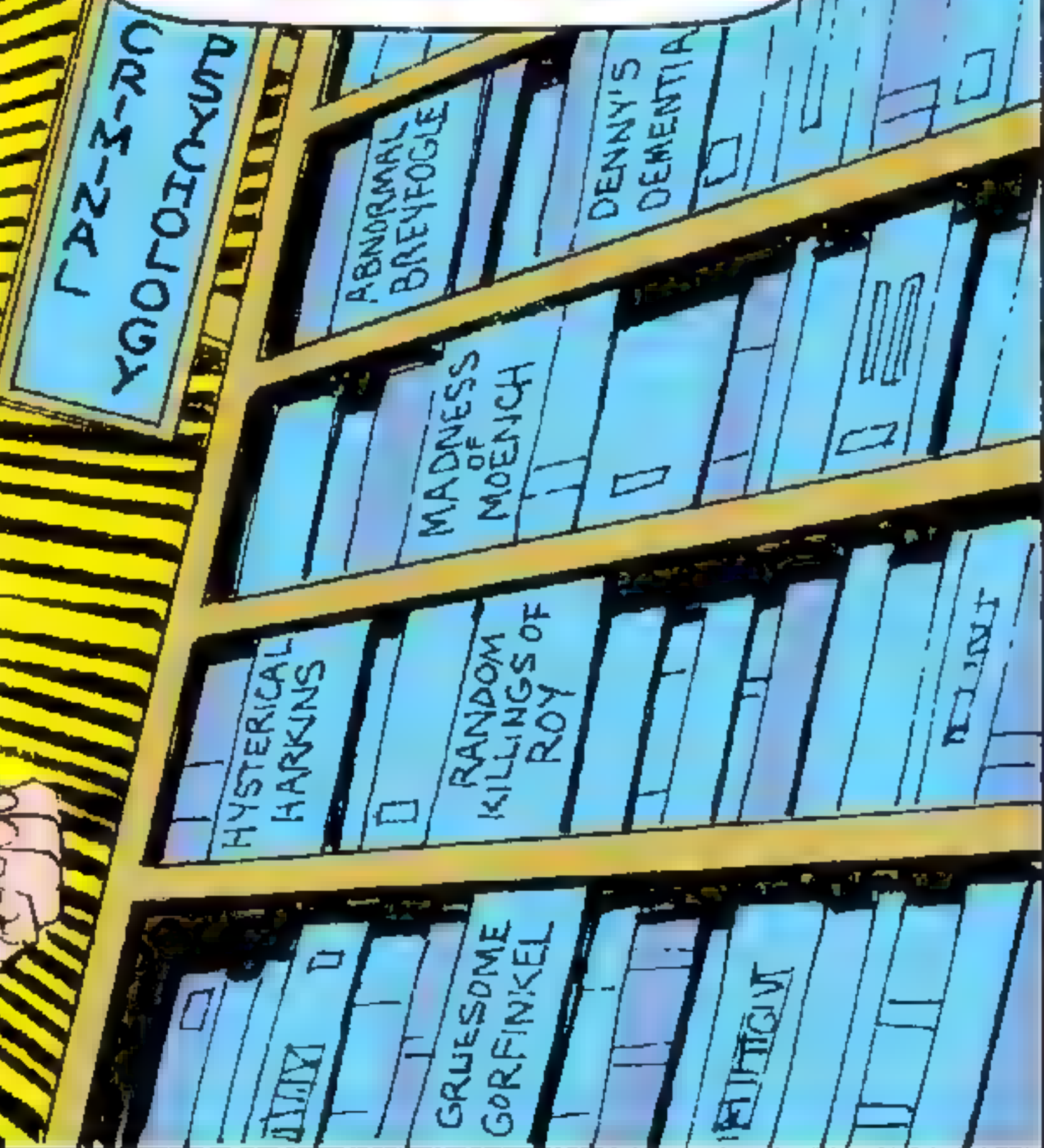


... AND LET THEM RUN WILD.

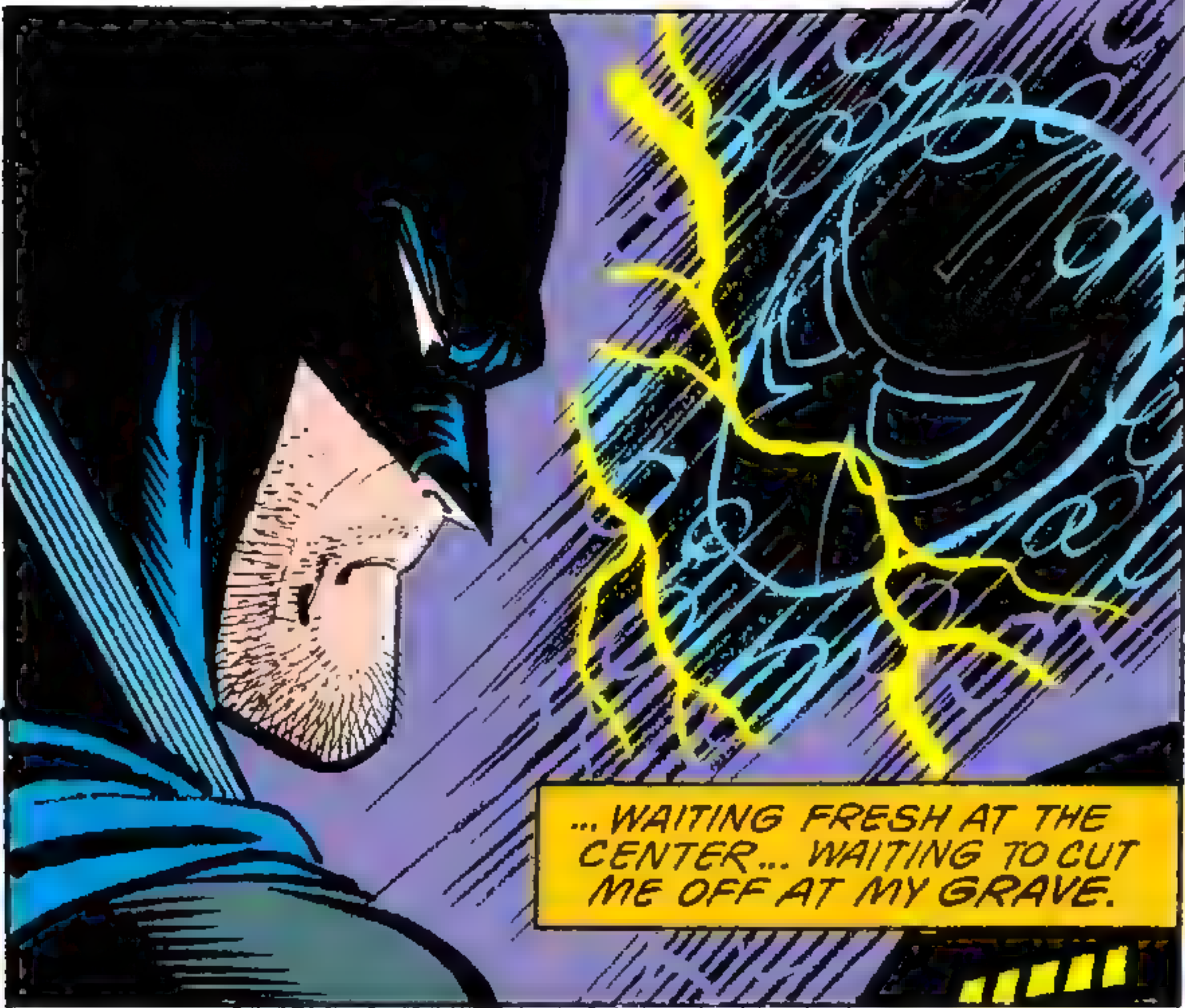
YOU SEE THE MARKS ?

SELF-INFLICTED, EVERY ONE... ALL LOVINGLY ETCHED...

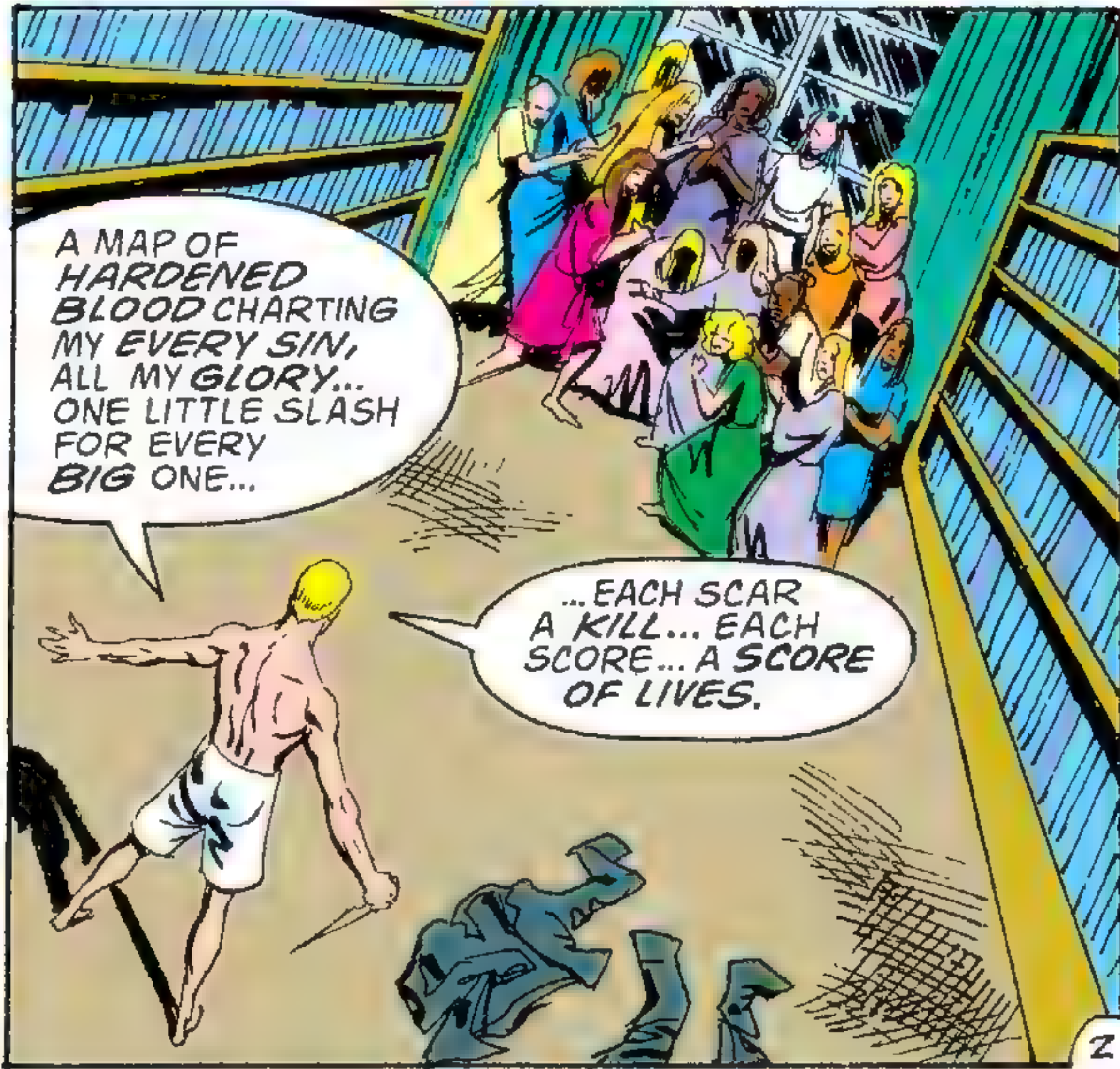
SOUVENIRS... TO TAKE EVERYWHERE.



AND WHILE I'M CHASING THE THUNDER, PUTTING OUT ALL THE FIRES, BURNING MYSELF OUT, BANE IS RESTING, ENJOYING THE SPECTACLE...



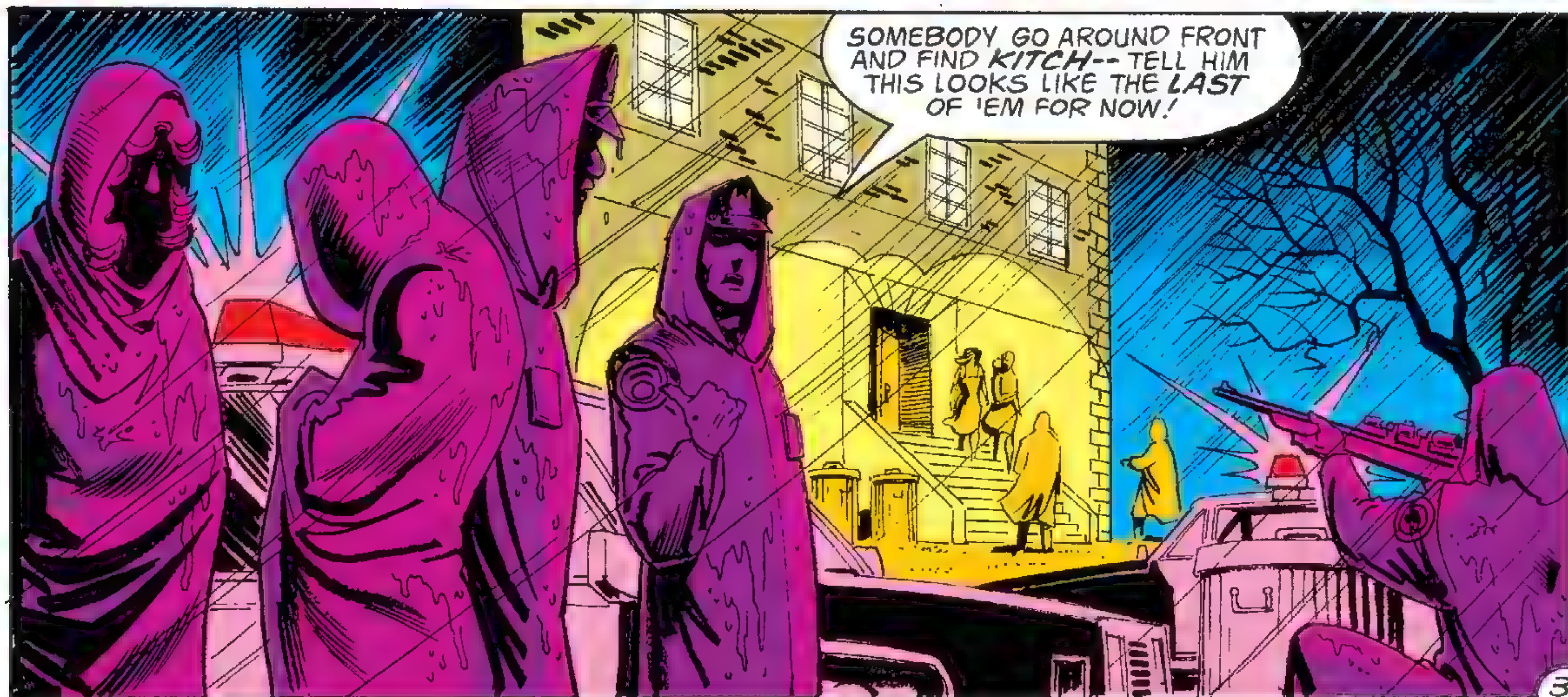
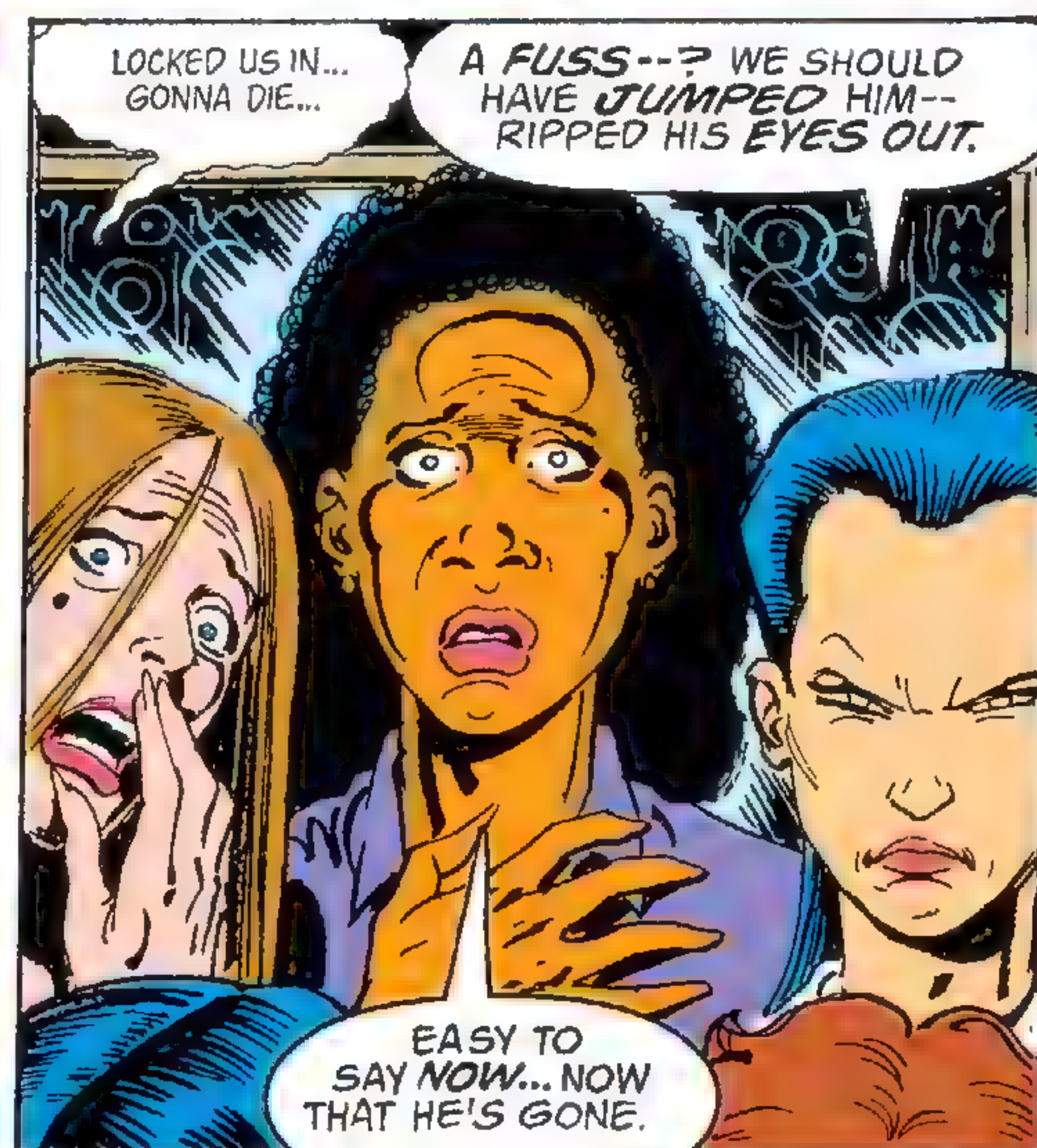
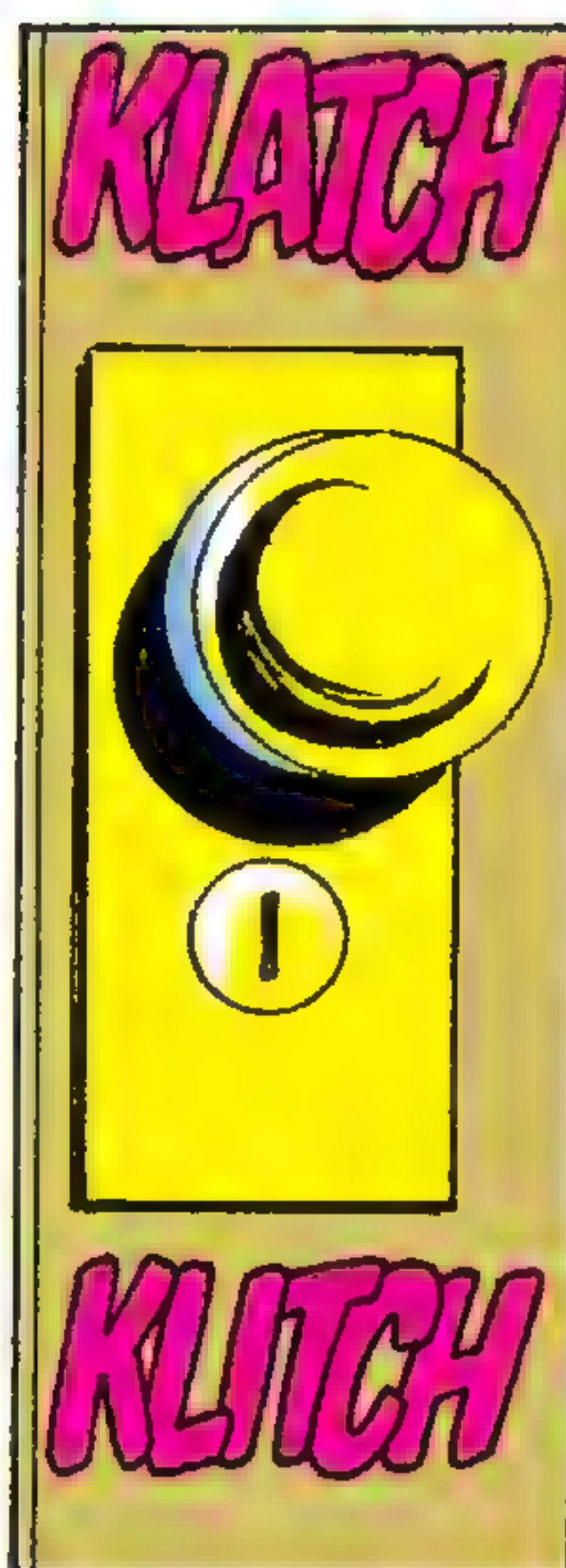
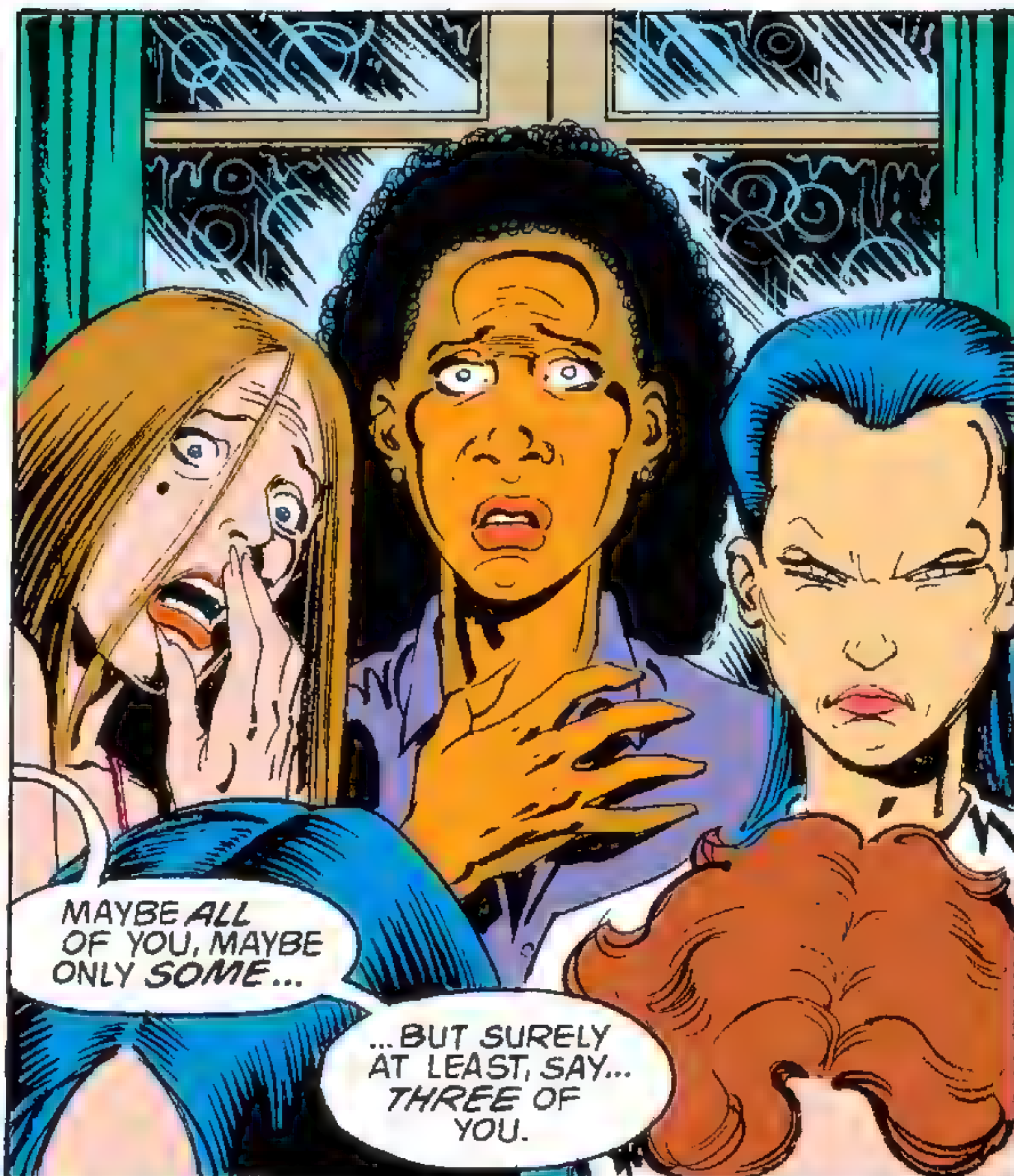
... WAITING FRESH AT THE CENTER... WAITING TO CUT ME OFF AT MY GRAVE.



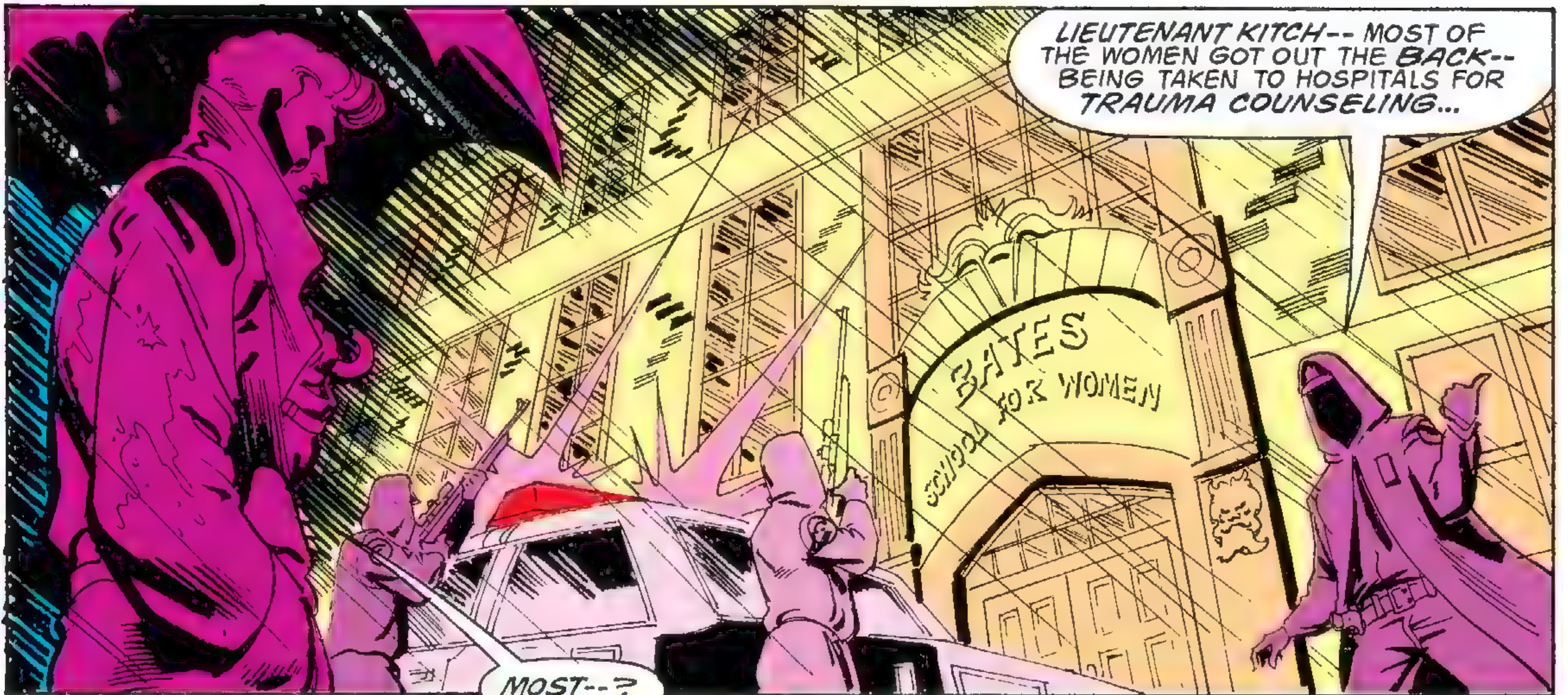
A MAP OF HARDENED BLOOD CHARTING MY EVERY SIN, ALL MY GLORY... ONE LITTLE SLASH FOR EVERY BIG ONE...

... EACH SCAR A KILL... EACH SCORE... A SCORE OF LIVES.









LIEUTENANT KITCH-- MOST OF THE WOMEN GOT OUT THE BACK-- BEING TAKEN TO HOSPITALS FOR TRAUMA COUNSELING...

MOST--?



STILL SOME FIFTEEN RESIDENT STUDENTS UNACCOUNTED FOR, SIR-- AND ONE OF THE ESCAPED WOMEN CLAIMS SHE BROKE FREE OF A GROUP ZSASZ WAS HERDING INTO THE LIBRARY.

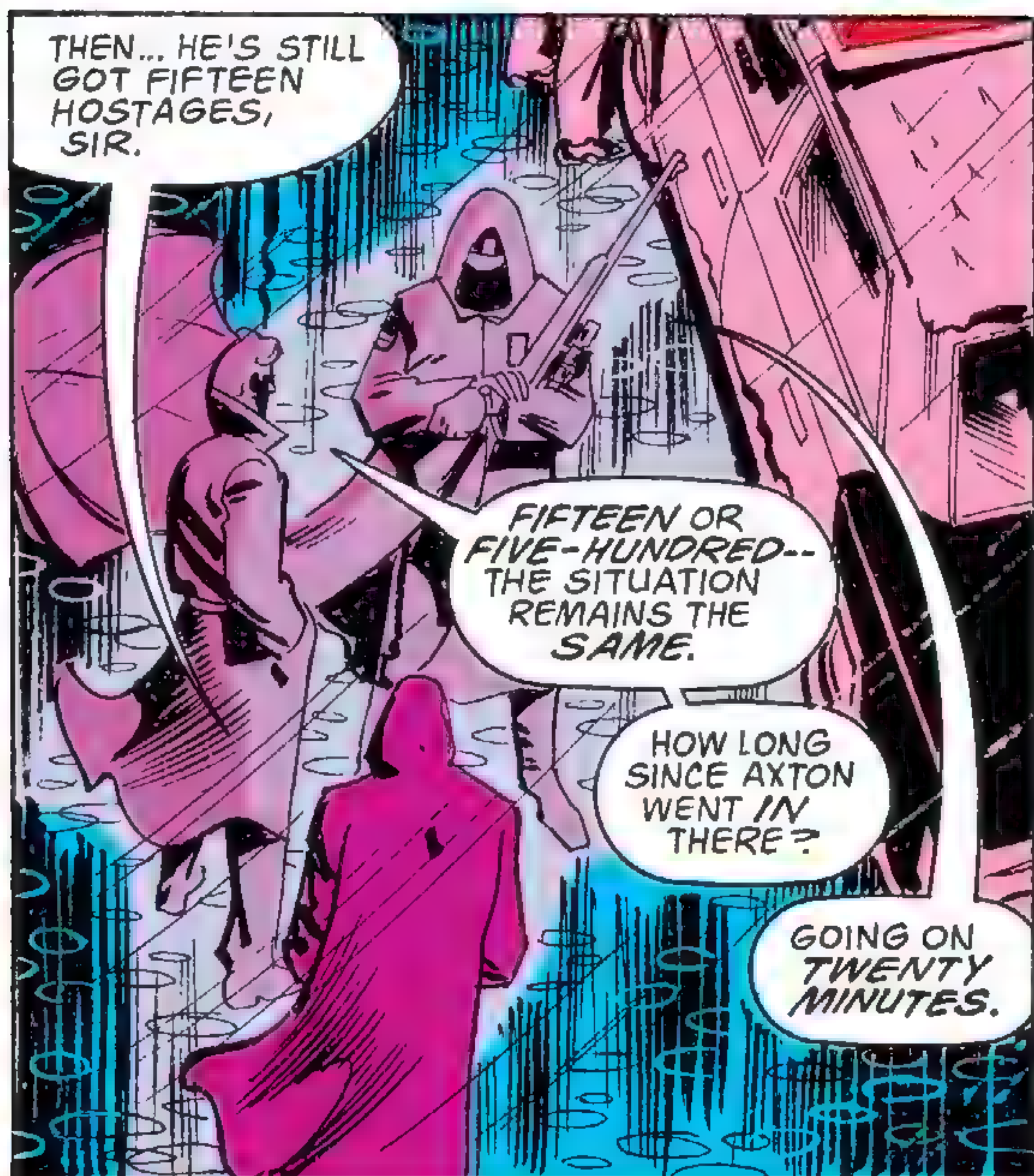
HER CONDITION?

PRETTY HYSTERICAL BUT CONVINCING-- AND IT MAKES SENSE...



IF THOSE FIFTEEN AREN'T STASHED IN THE LIBRARY-- OR AT LEAST SCATTERED IN DIFFERENT PLACES IN THERE-- THEN THEY'RE PROBABLY DEAD.

WE NEVER ASSUME THAT, OFFICER.



THEN... HE'S STILL GOT FIFTEEN HOSTAGES, SIR.

FIFTEEN OR FIVE-HUNDRED-- THE SITUATION REMAINS THE SAME.

HOW LONG SINCE AXTON WENT IN THERE?

GOING ON TWENTY MINUTES.



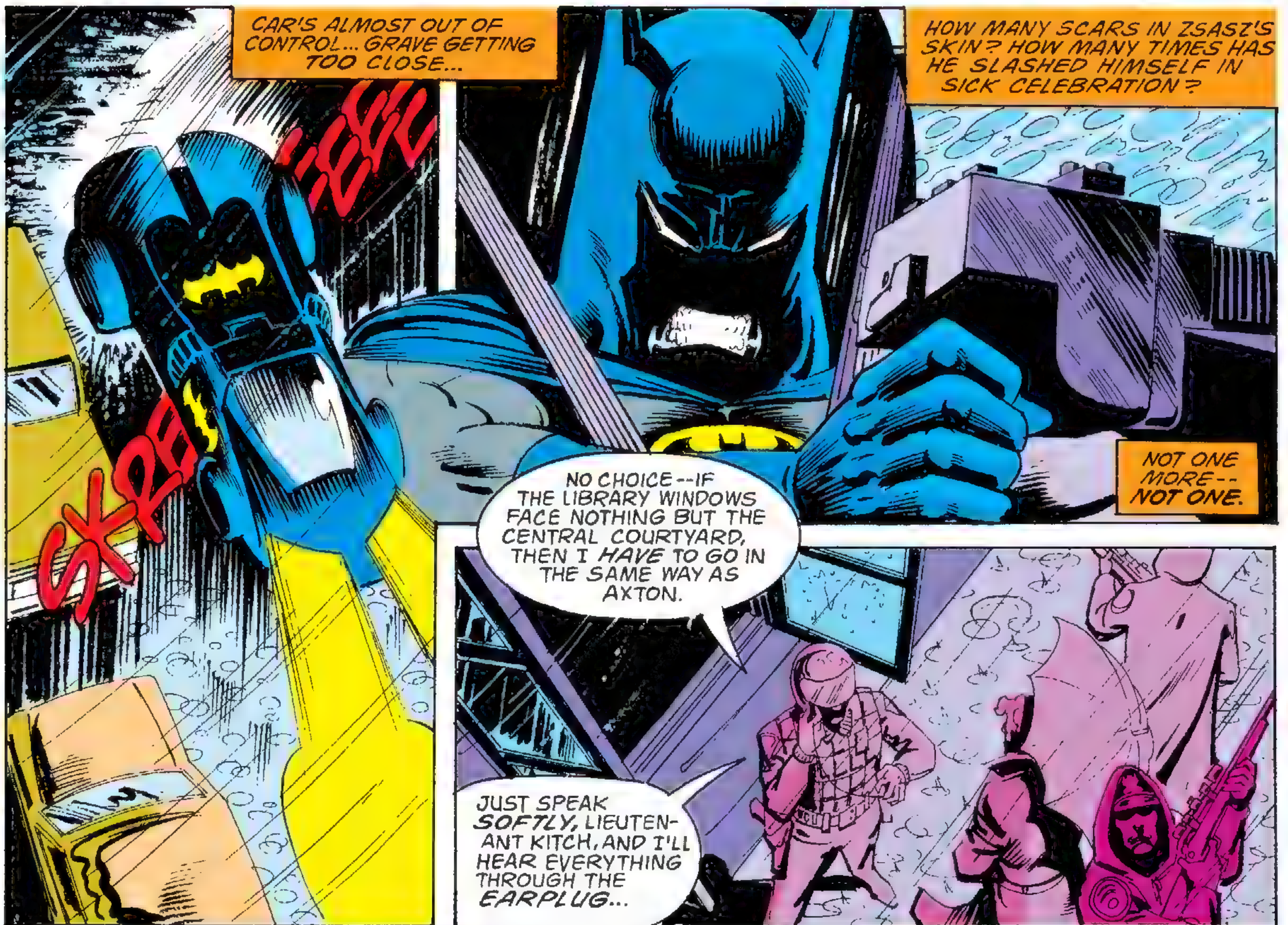
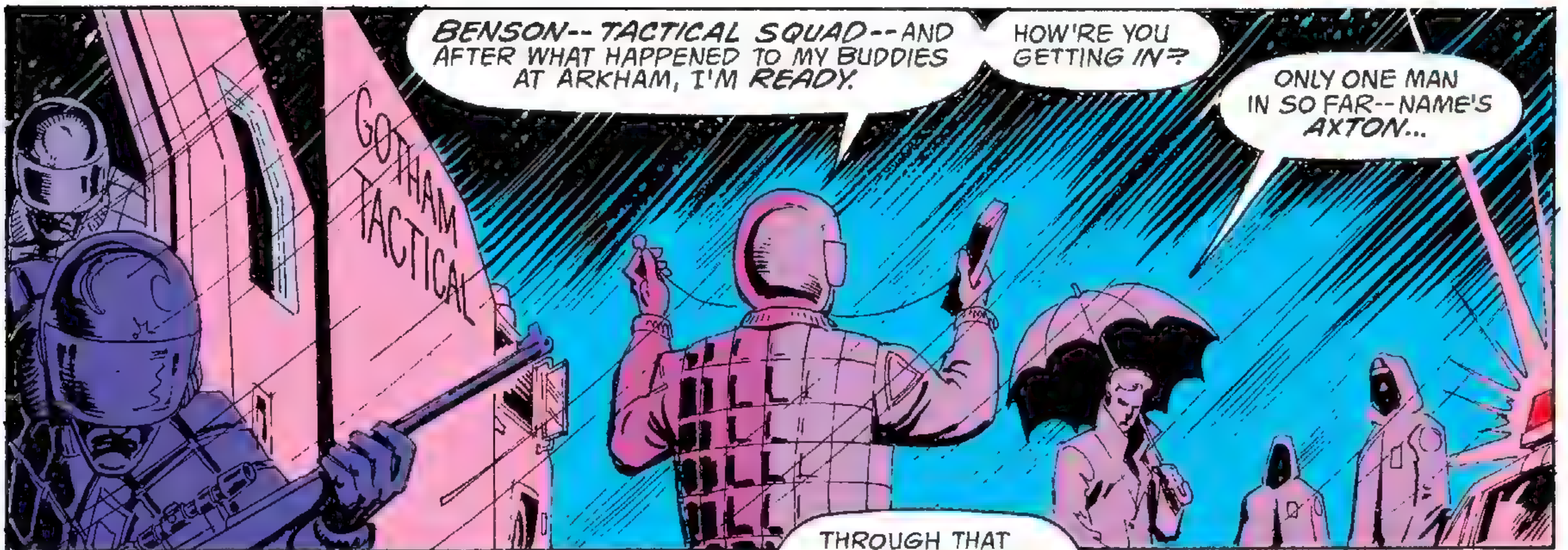
TOO LONG.

WANT ME TO TRY TO RAISE HIM, SIR?

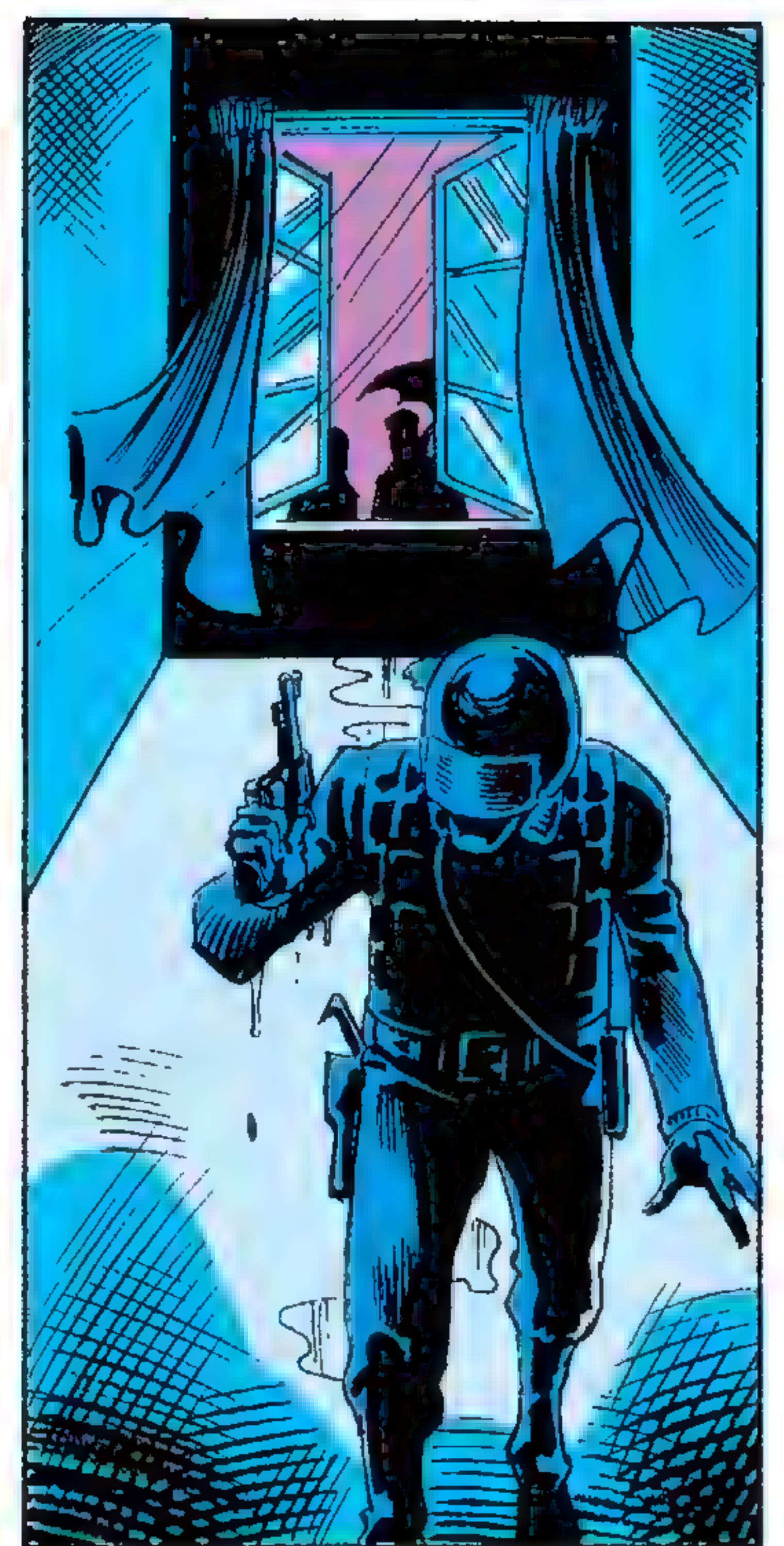
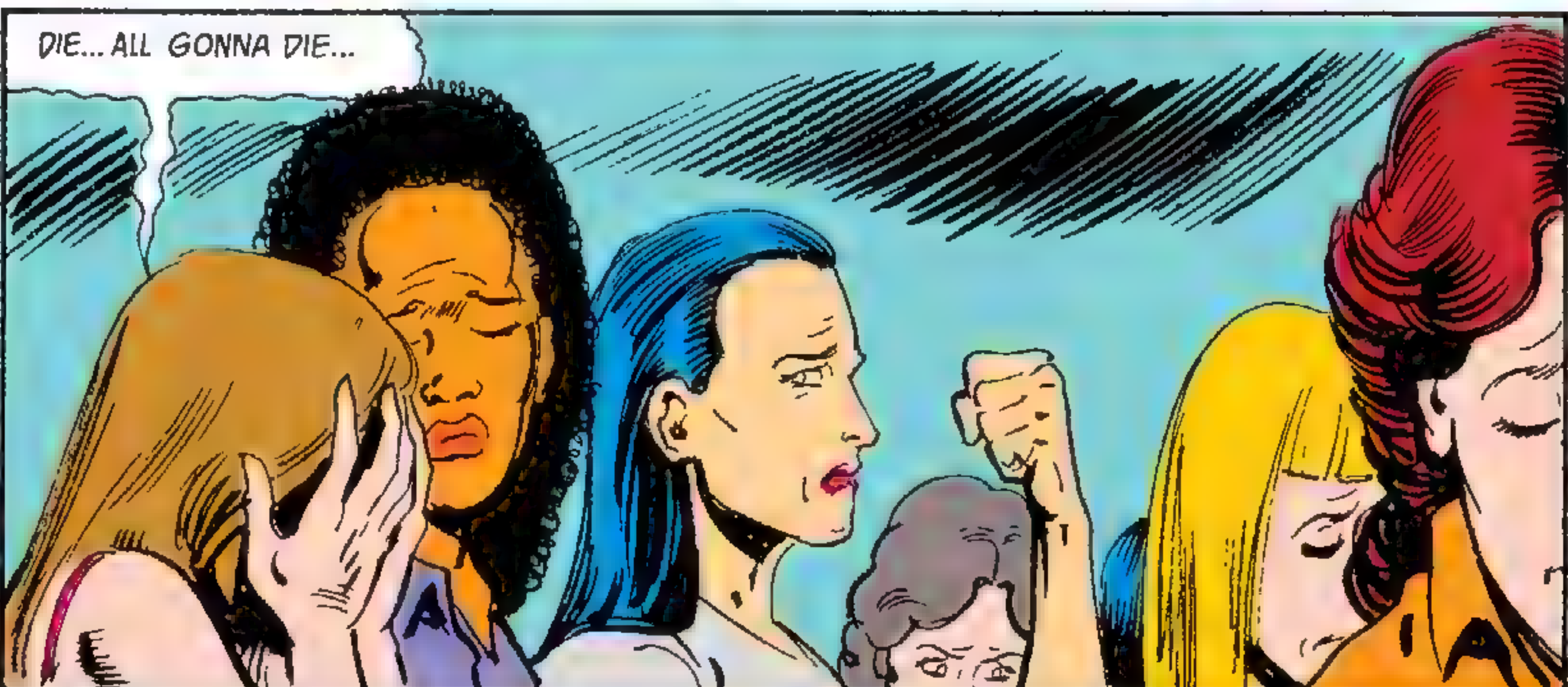
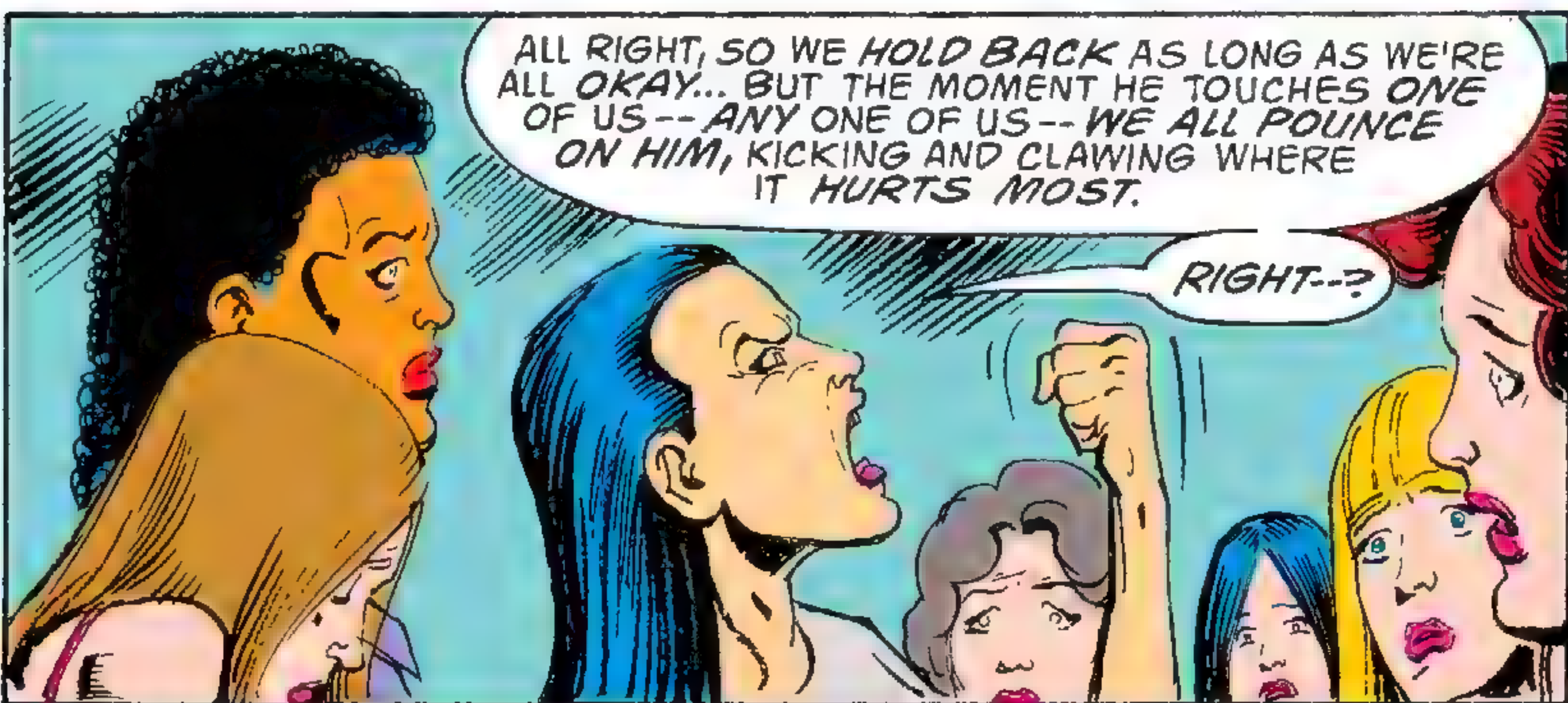
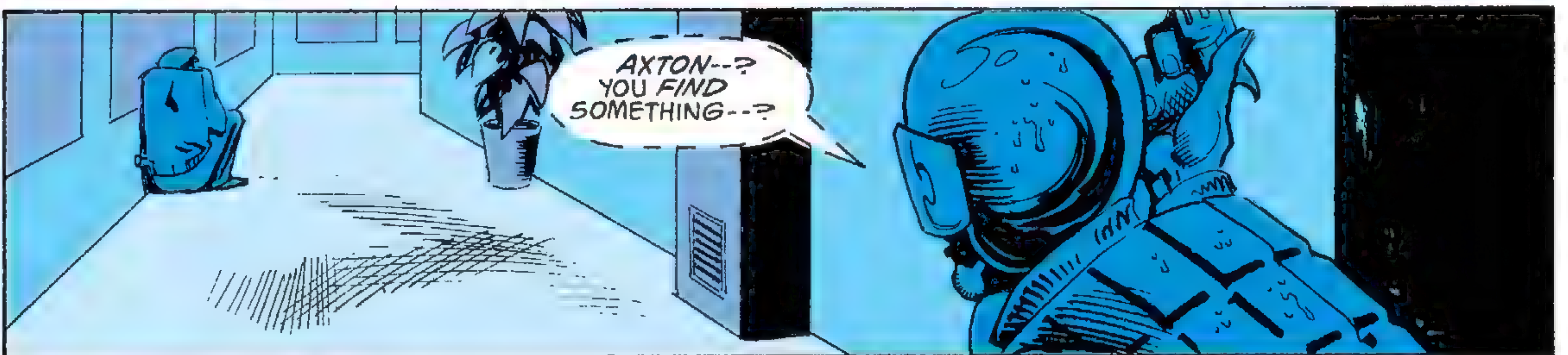
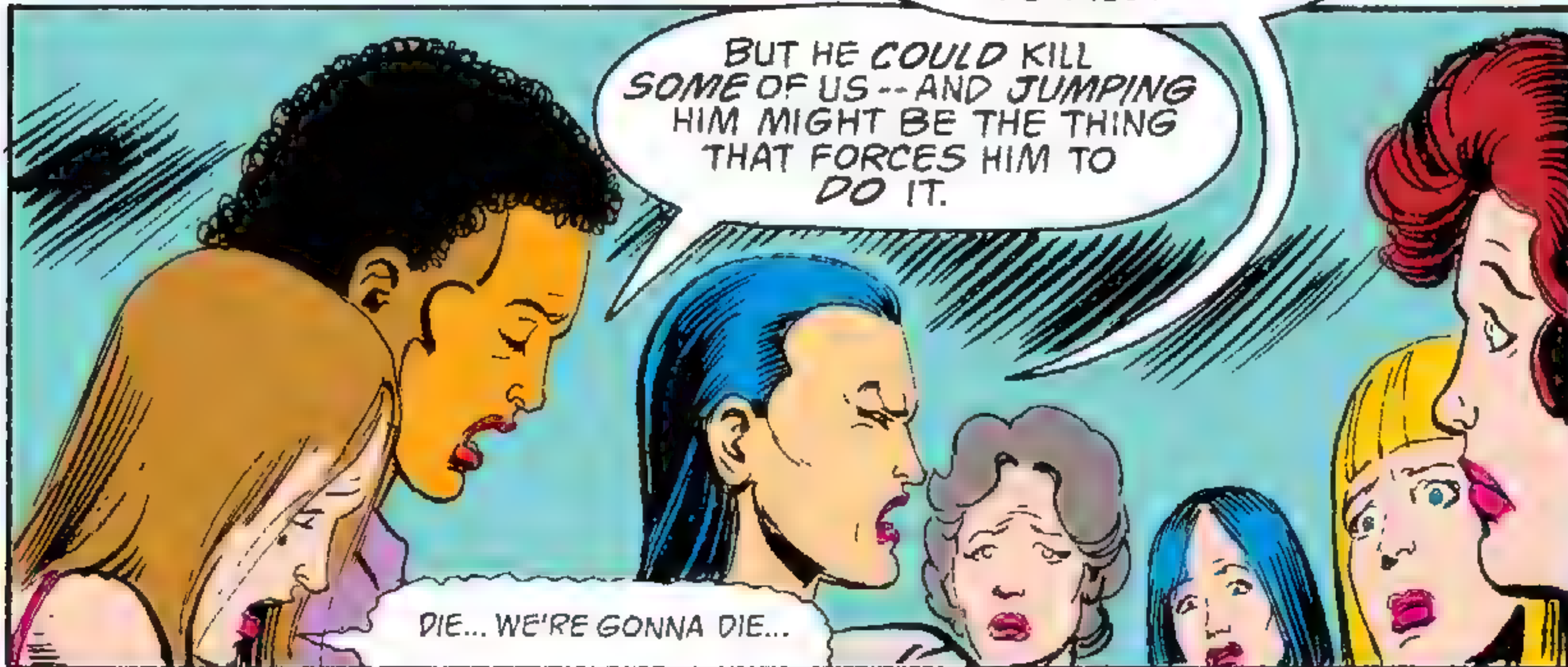
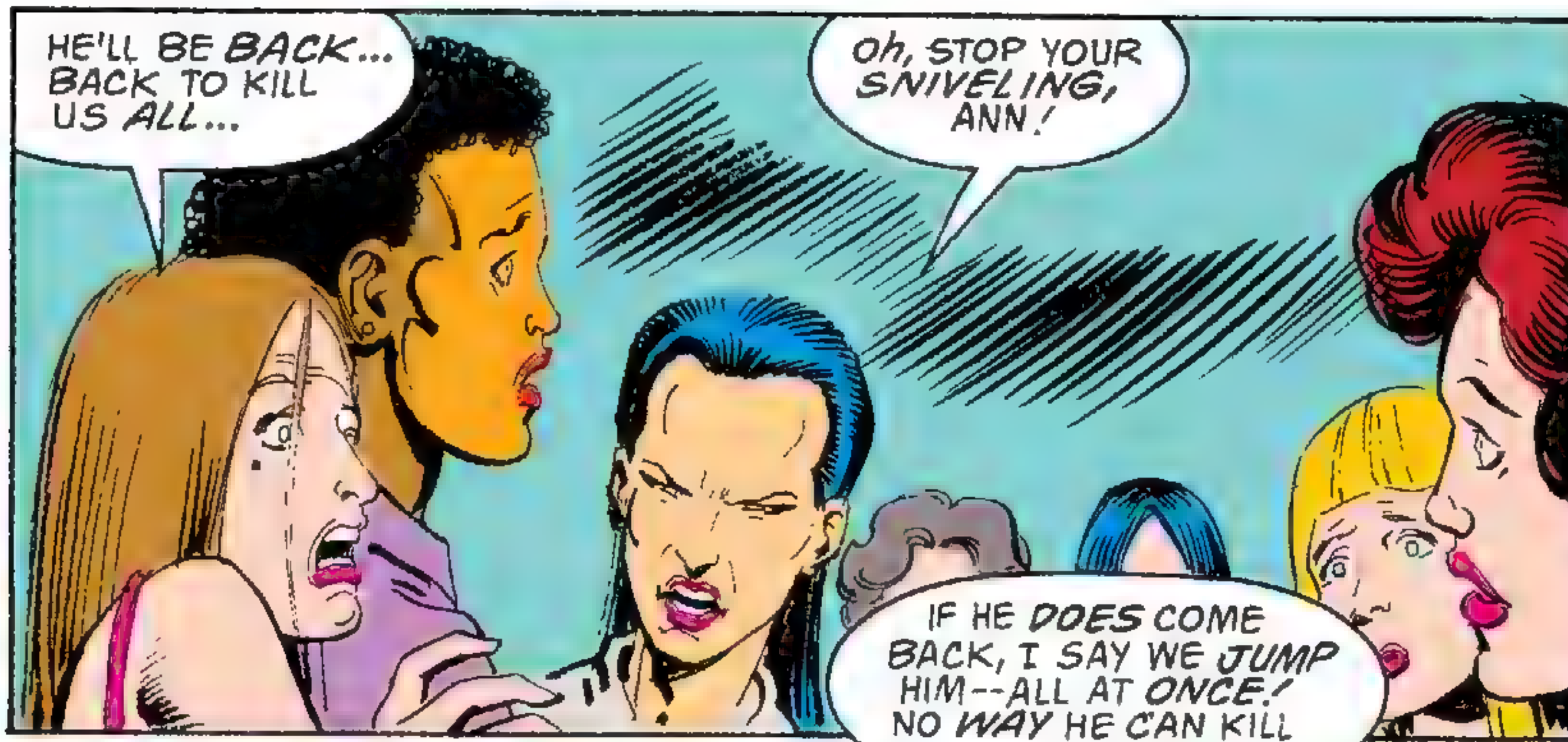
I TOLD YOU-- THE NOISE MIGHT GIVE HIM AWAY... AND I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE THE ENTIRE FORCE ISN'T EQUIPPED WITH EARPHONES FOR THOSE THINGS.

I'VE GOT ONE...

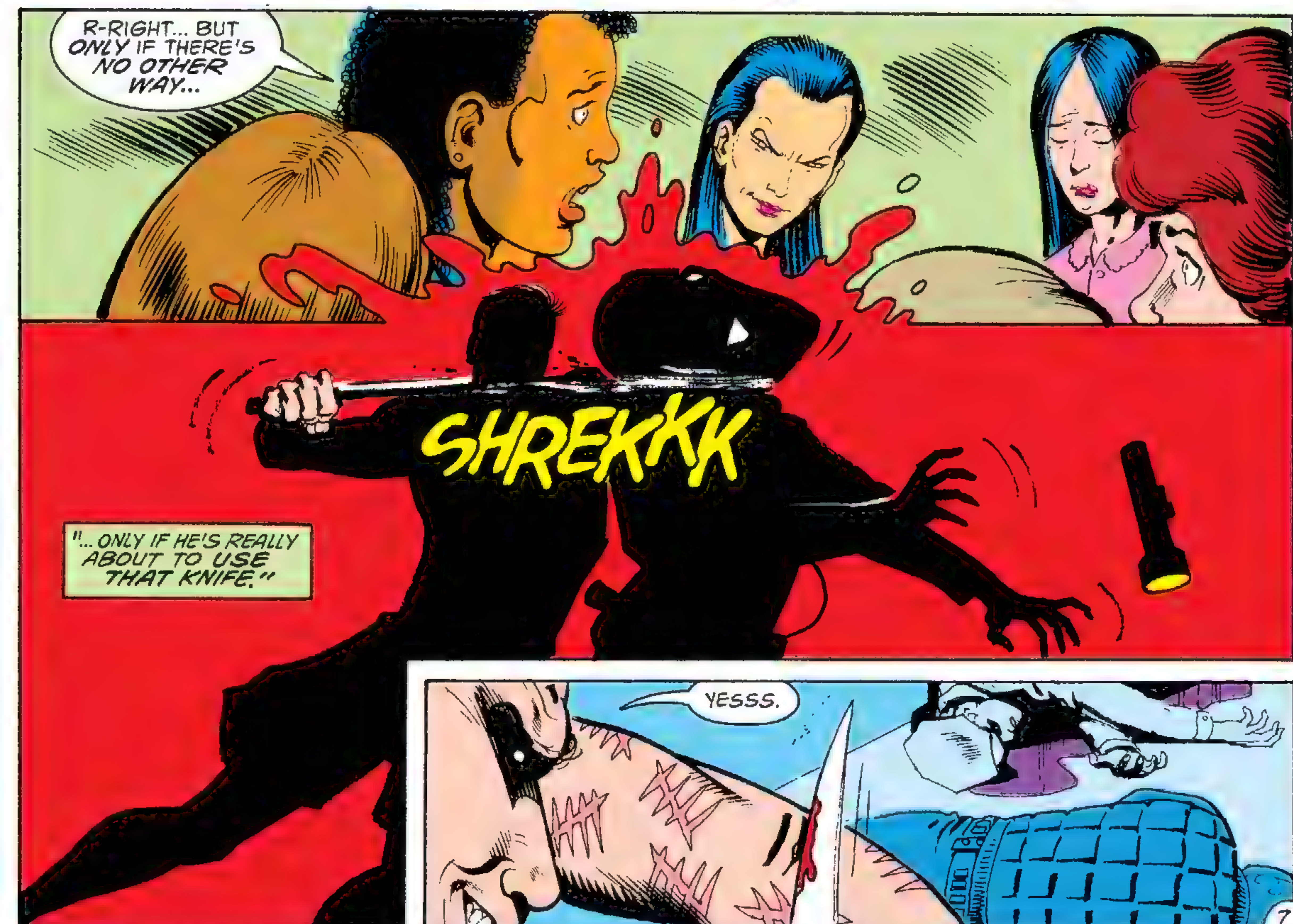
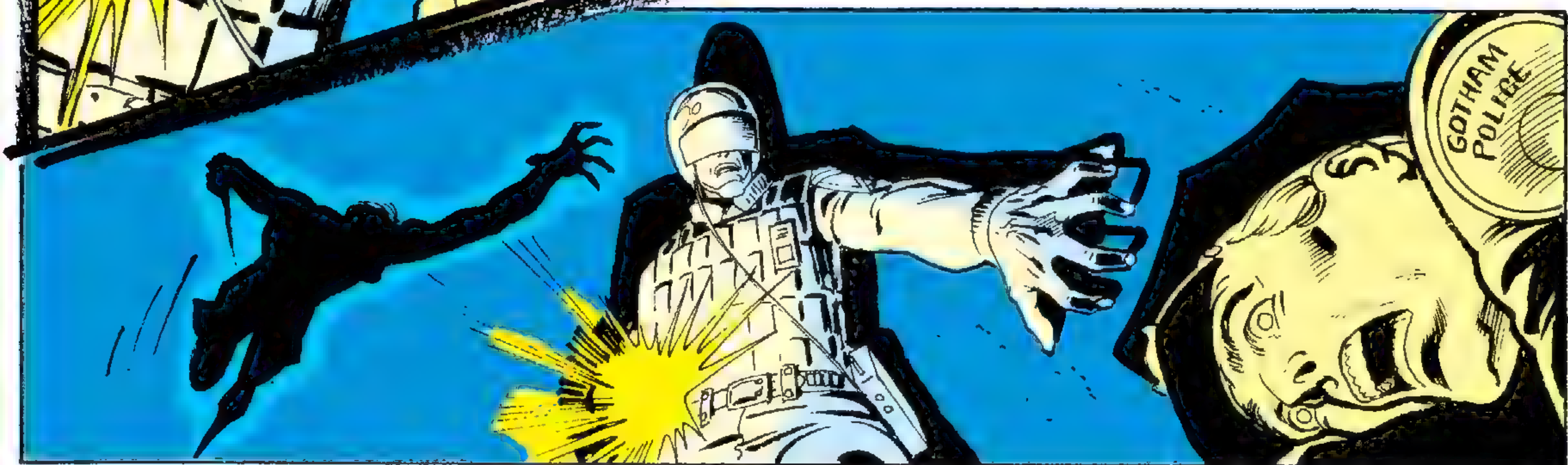














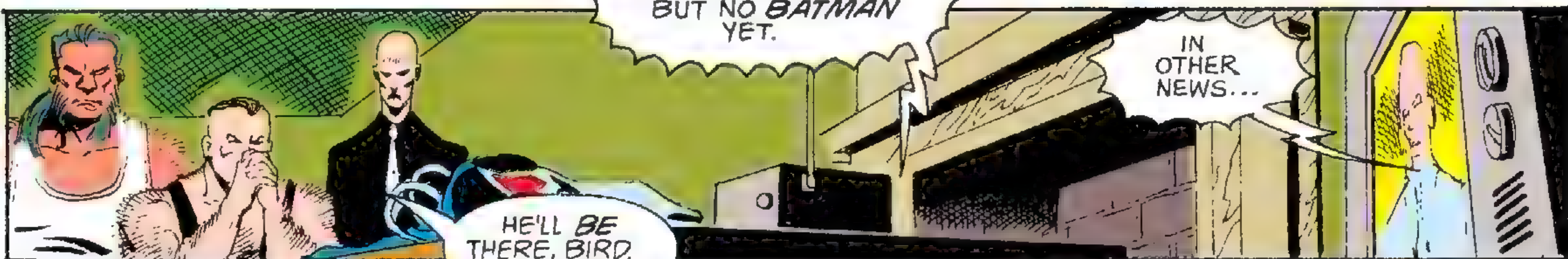


-- TENSE STANDOFF CONTINUES AT GOTHAM'S BATES SCHOOL FOR WOMEN, WHERE POLICE ARE UNABLE TO MOVE WITHOUT RISK TO HOSTAGES' LIVES...

LOTTA COPS, BANE-- BUT NO BATMAN YET.

IN OTHER NEWS...

HE'LL BE THERE, BIRD.



PROBABLY-- BUT I'M BEGINNIN' TO WONDER ABOUT HIM, BANE-- ESPECIALLY AFTER RUNNIN' INTO HIS LITTLE PARTNER.

THE KID'S GOOD, BUT ANY MAN WHO RELIES ON A KID MAY BE OVERRATED...



I THINK MAYBE THE BATMAN'S RIPE FOR HIS FALL RIGHT NOW.

NO. HE'S PHYSICALLY WEAKENED-- AND DEPLETED MORE WITH EACH NEW EXPLOSION OF MADNESS-- BUT HIS MIND IS STILL STRONG...

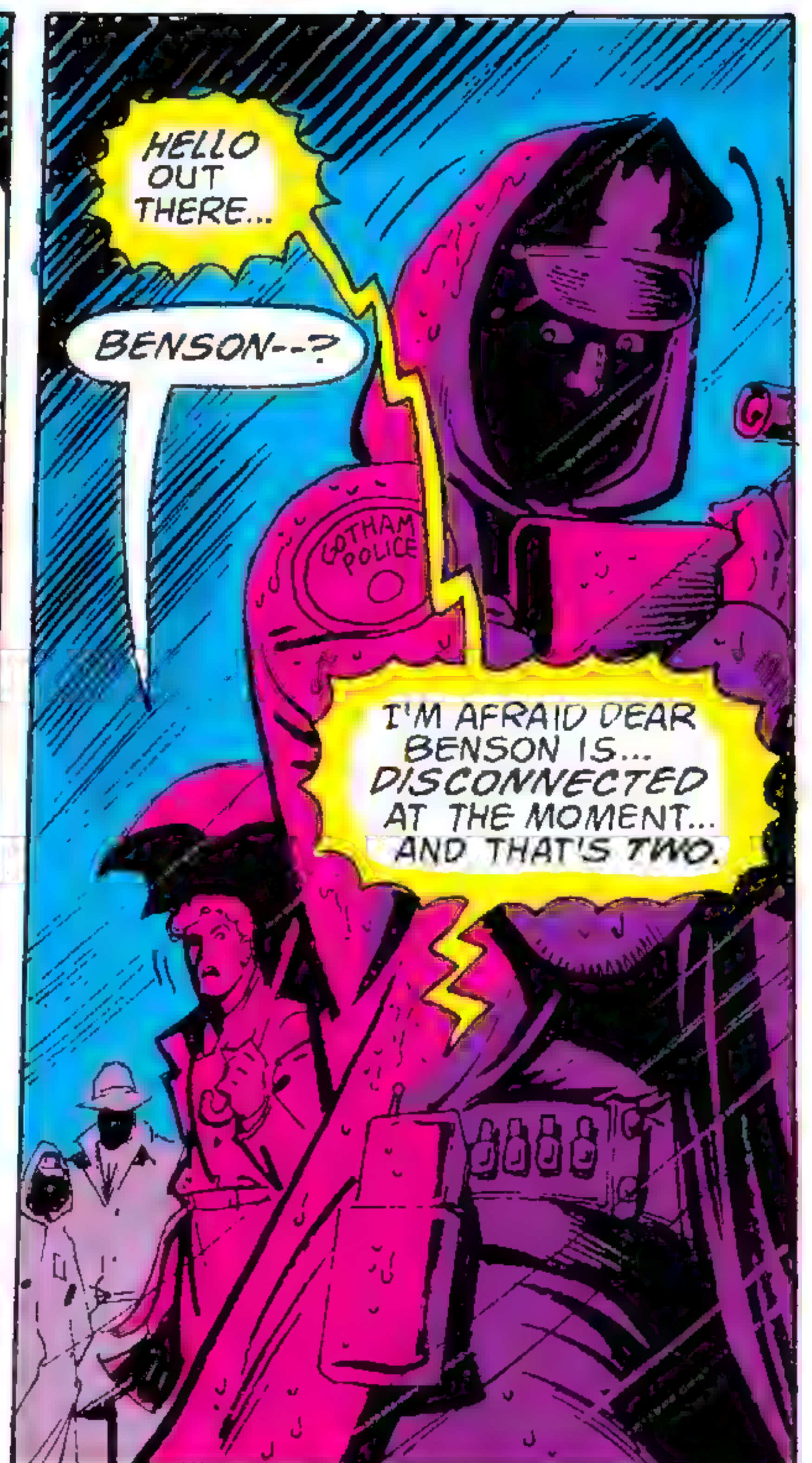
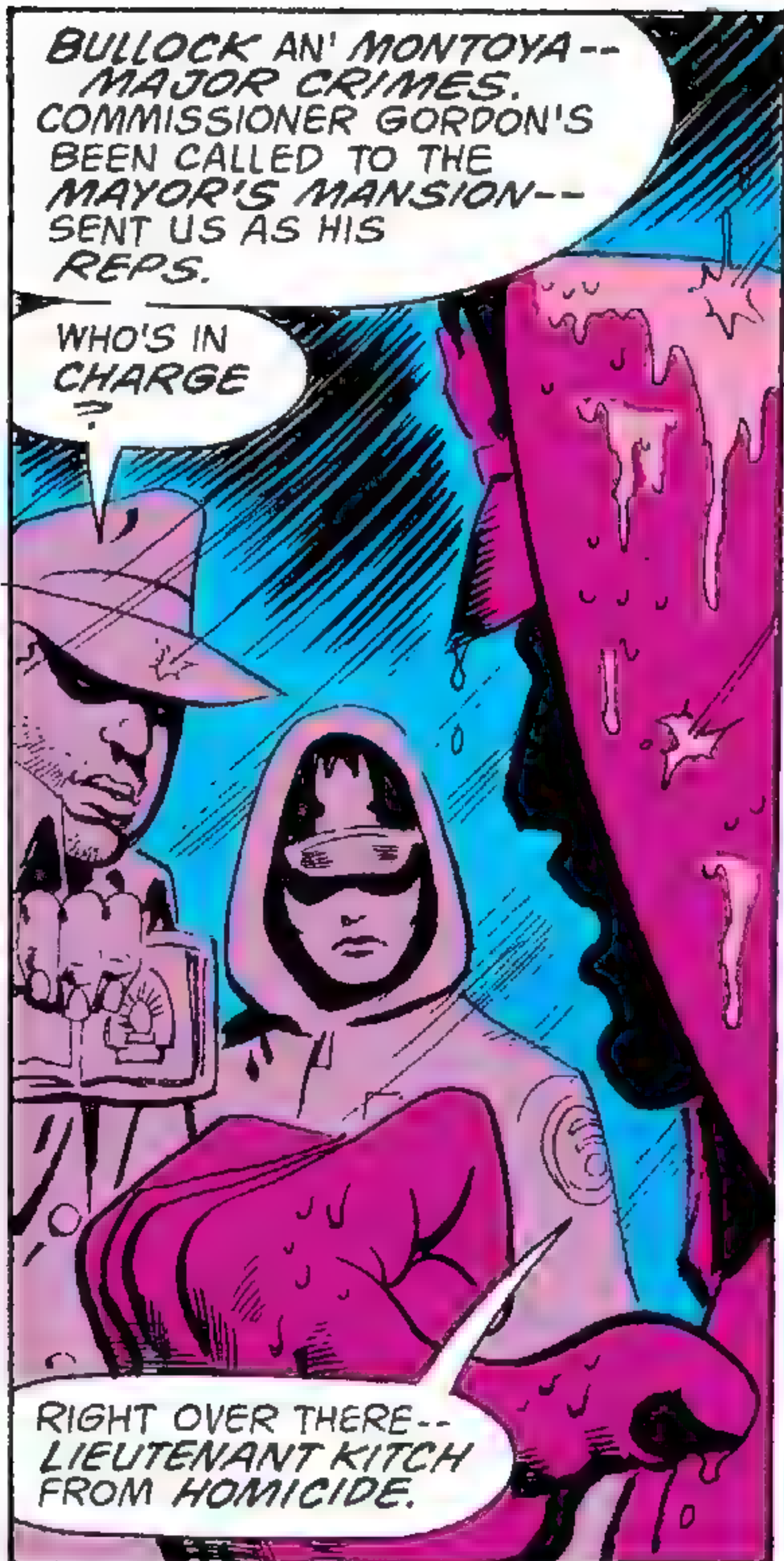
HE IS NOT READY TO BE BROKEN... NOT QUITE YET.

KRIK

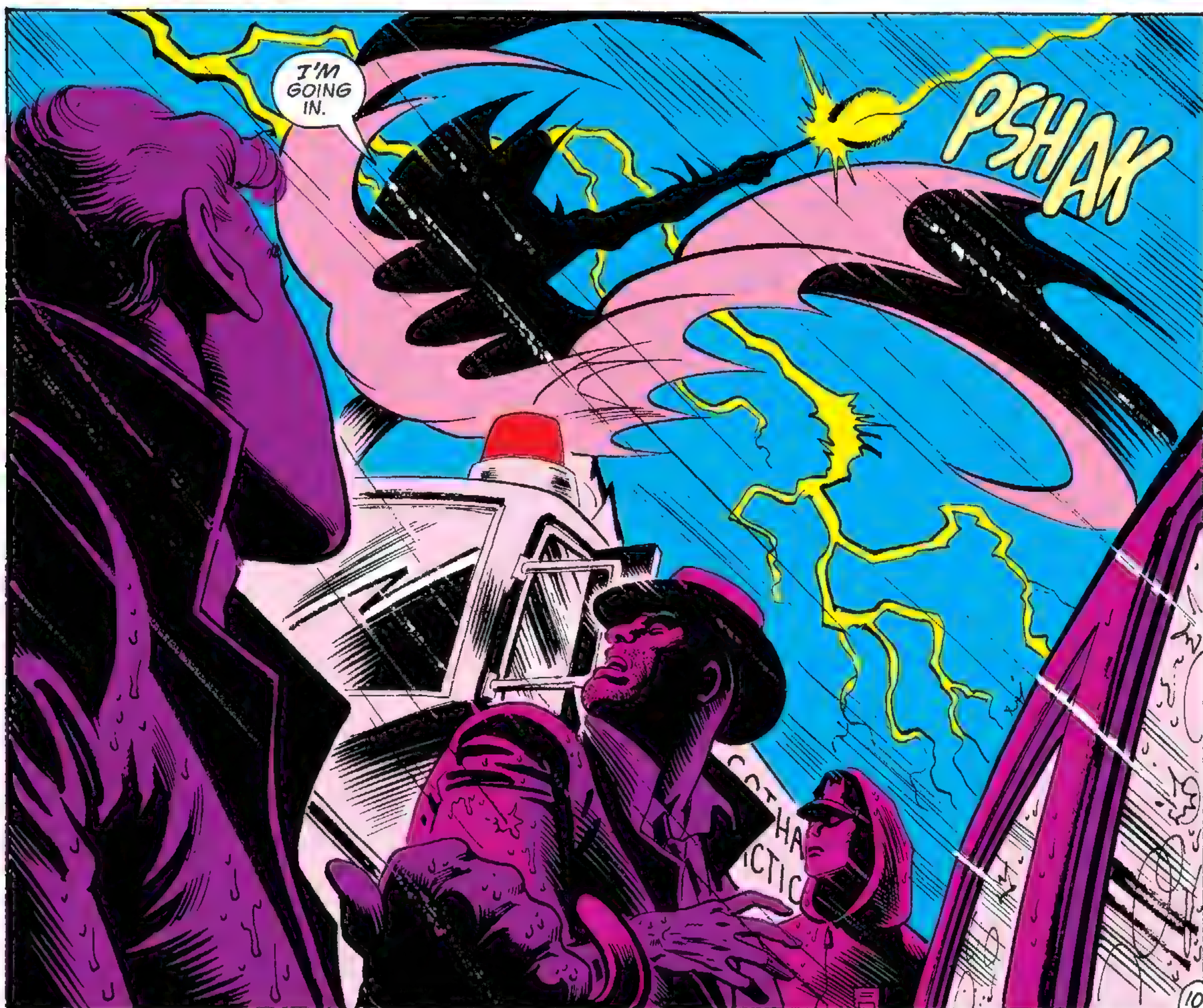
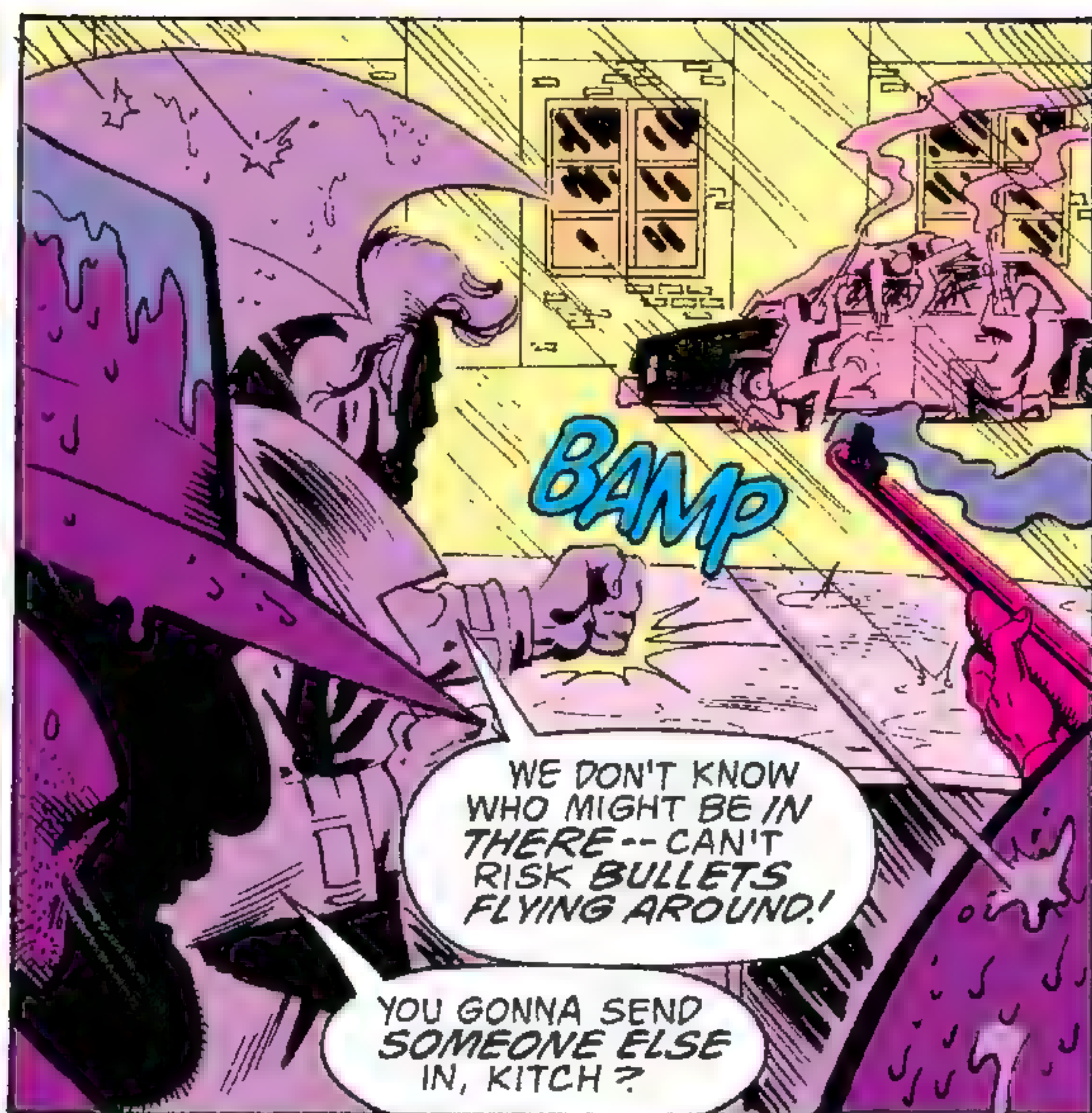
WHEN HE IS, I WILL KNOW IT... AND THEN, THE PIECES WILL STAY BROKEN.



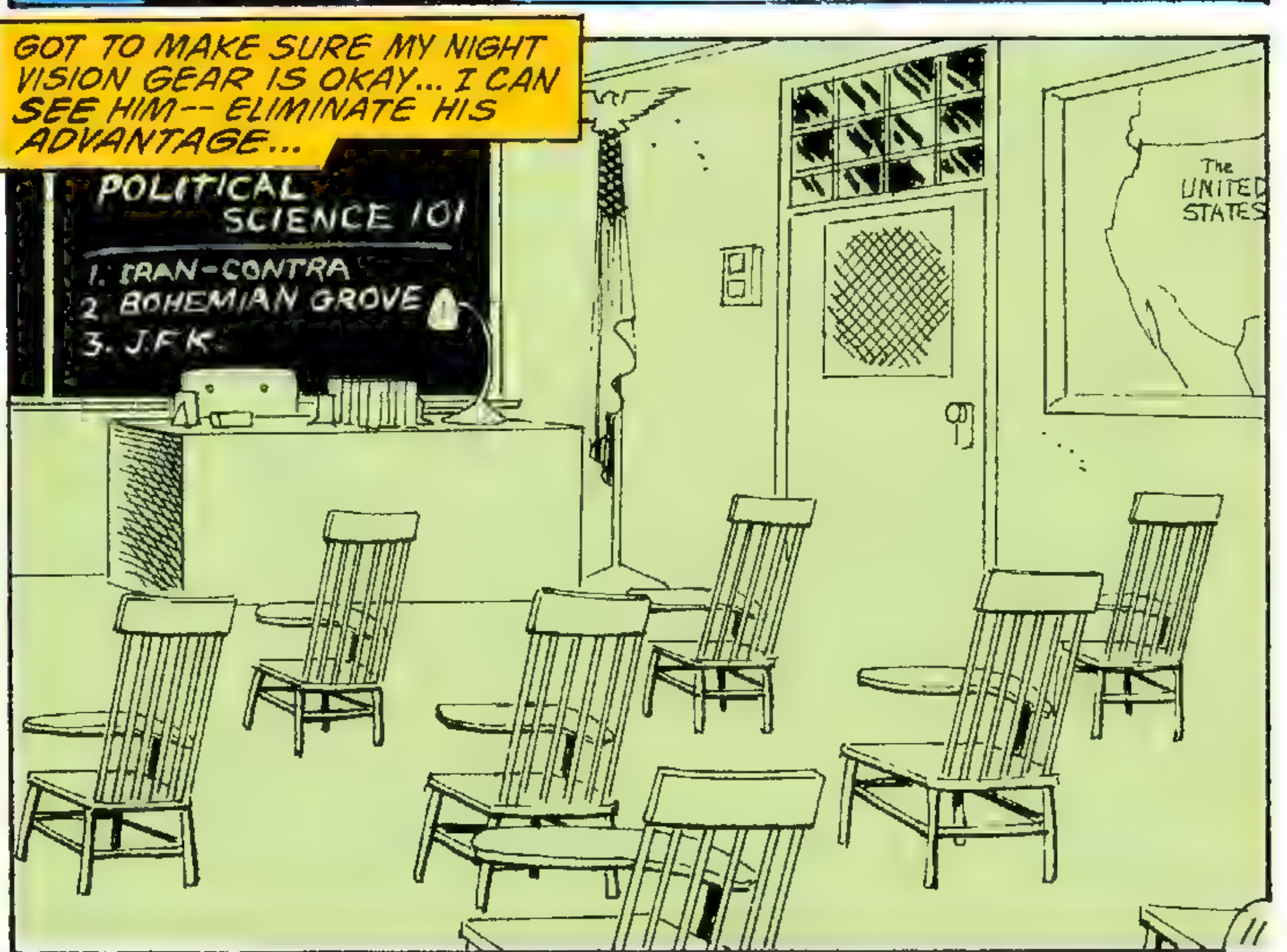
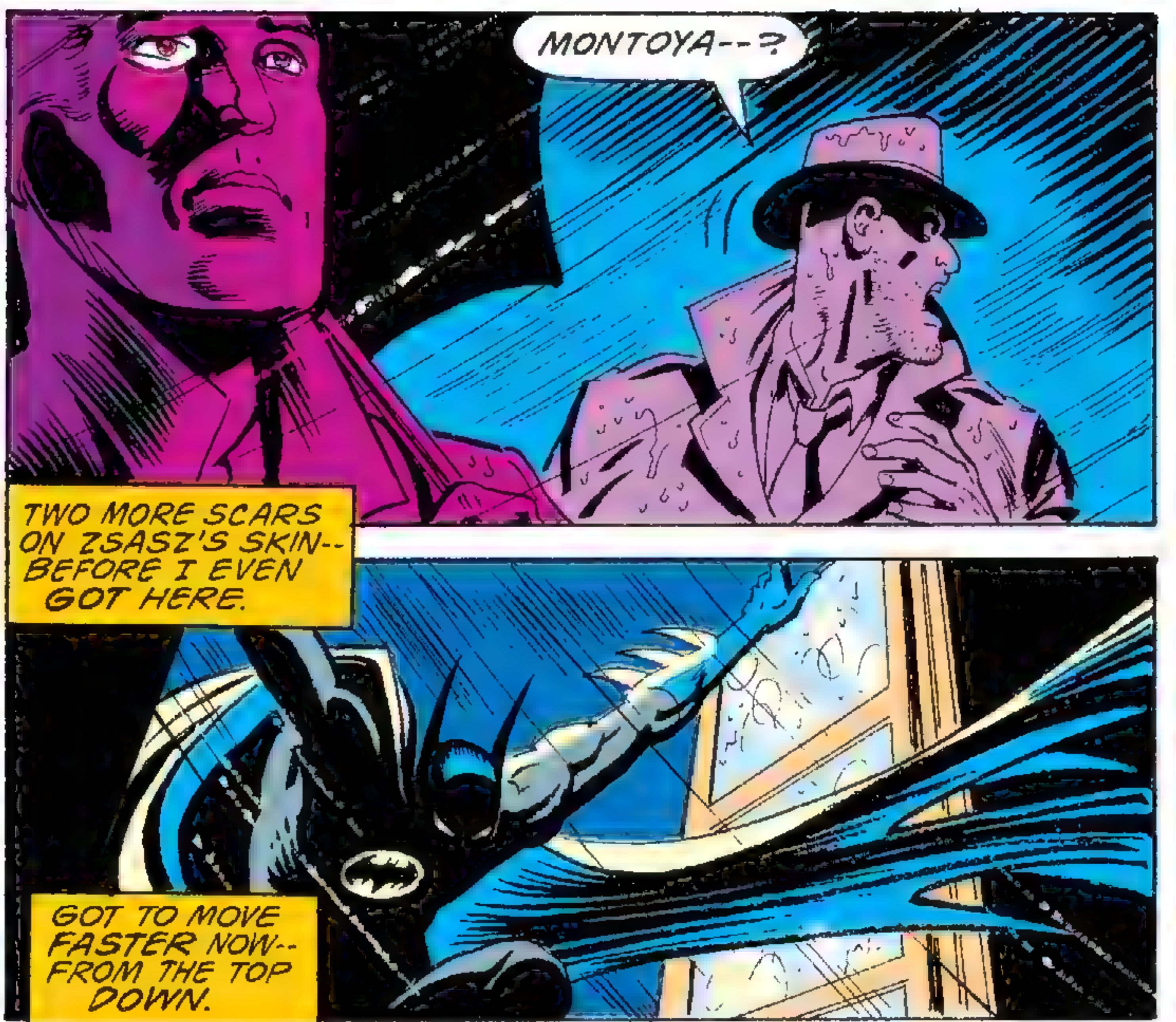
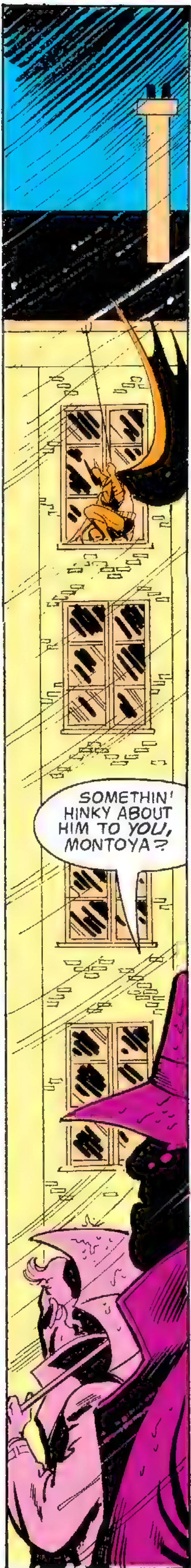
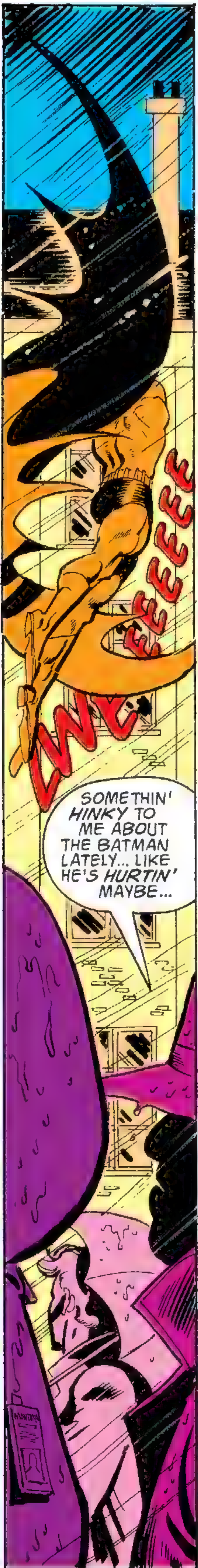




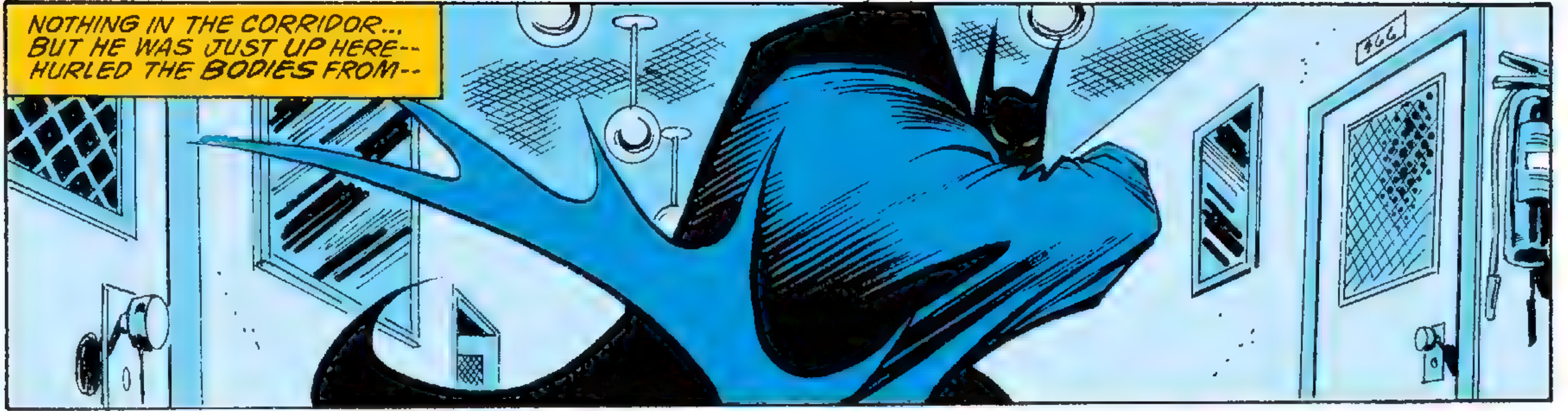












NOTHING IN THE CORRIDOR...  
BUT HE WAS JUST UP HERE--  
HURLED THE BODIES FROM--



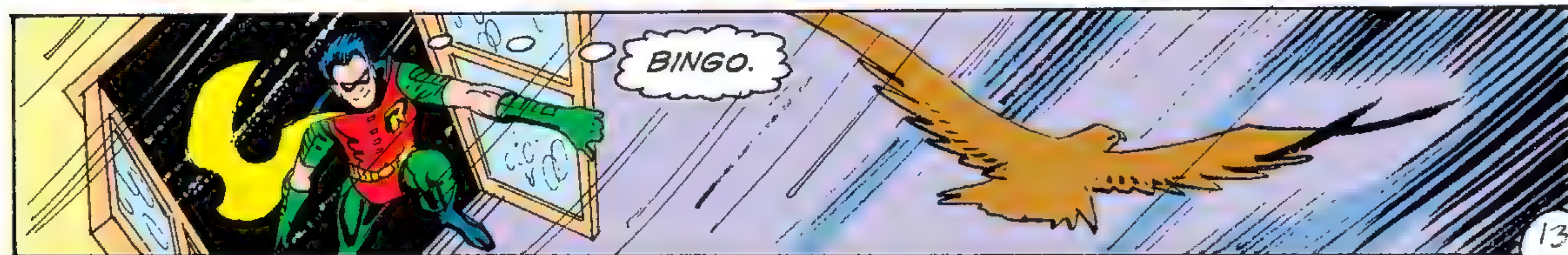
**SKEEF**

... WAITING IN AMBUSH...  
READY TO STRIKE WITHOUT  
WARNING...

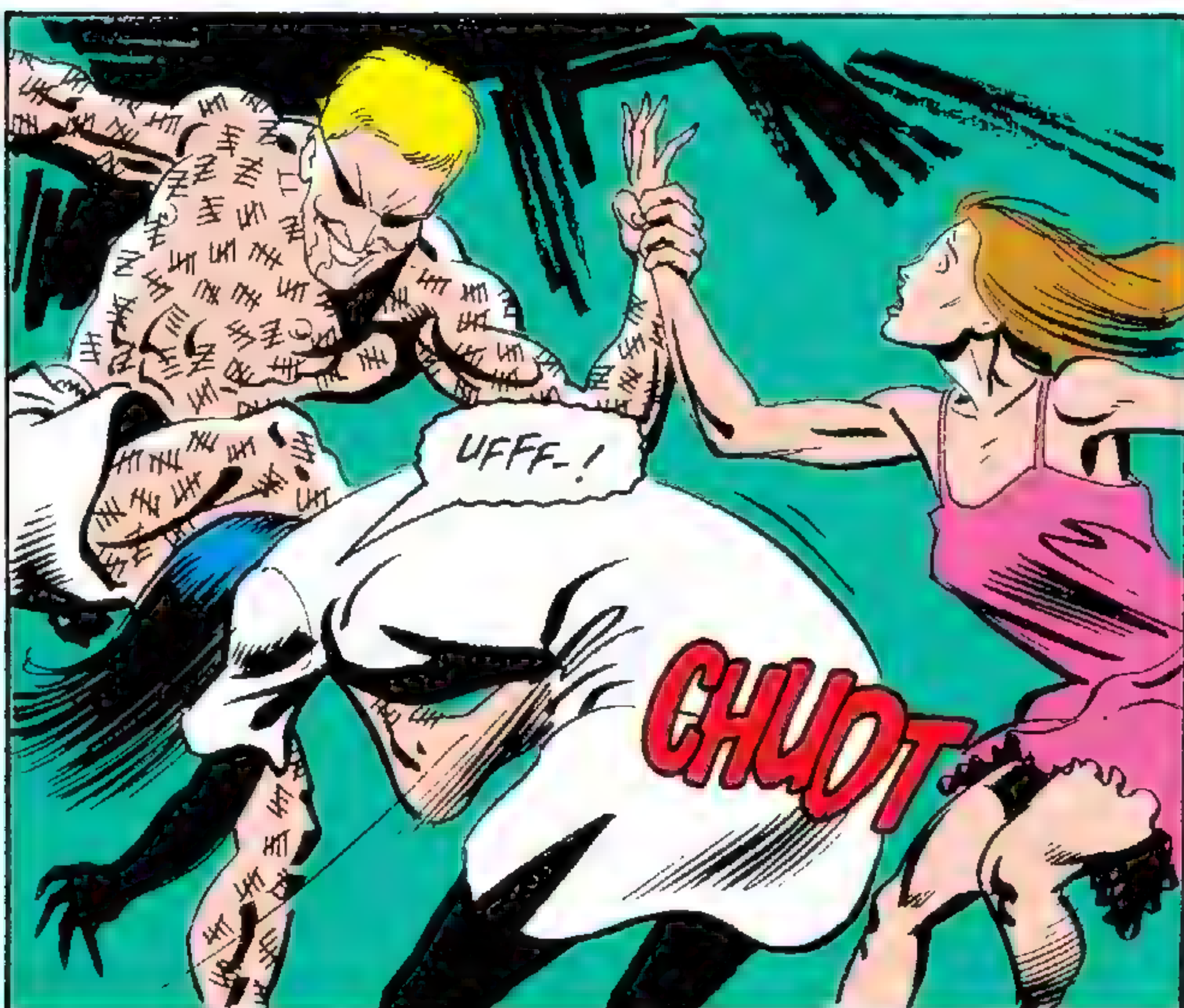
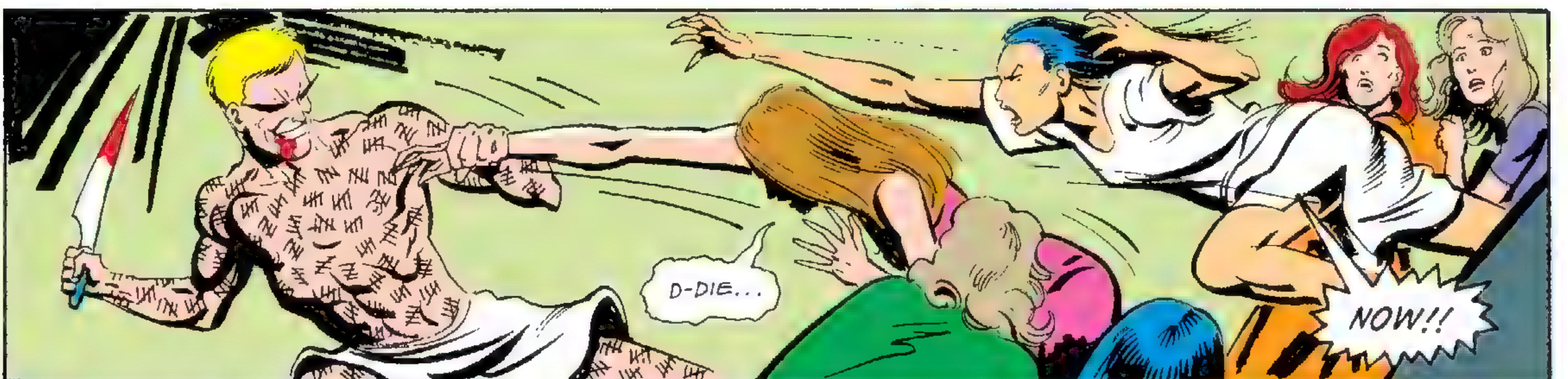
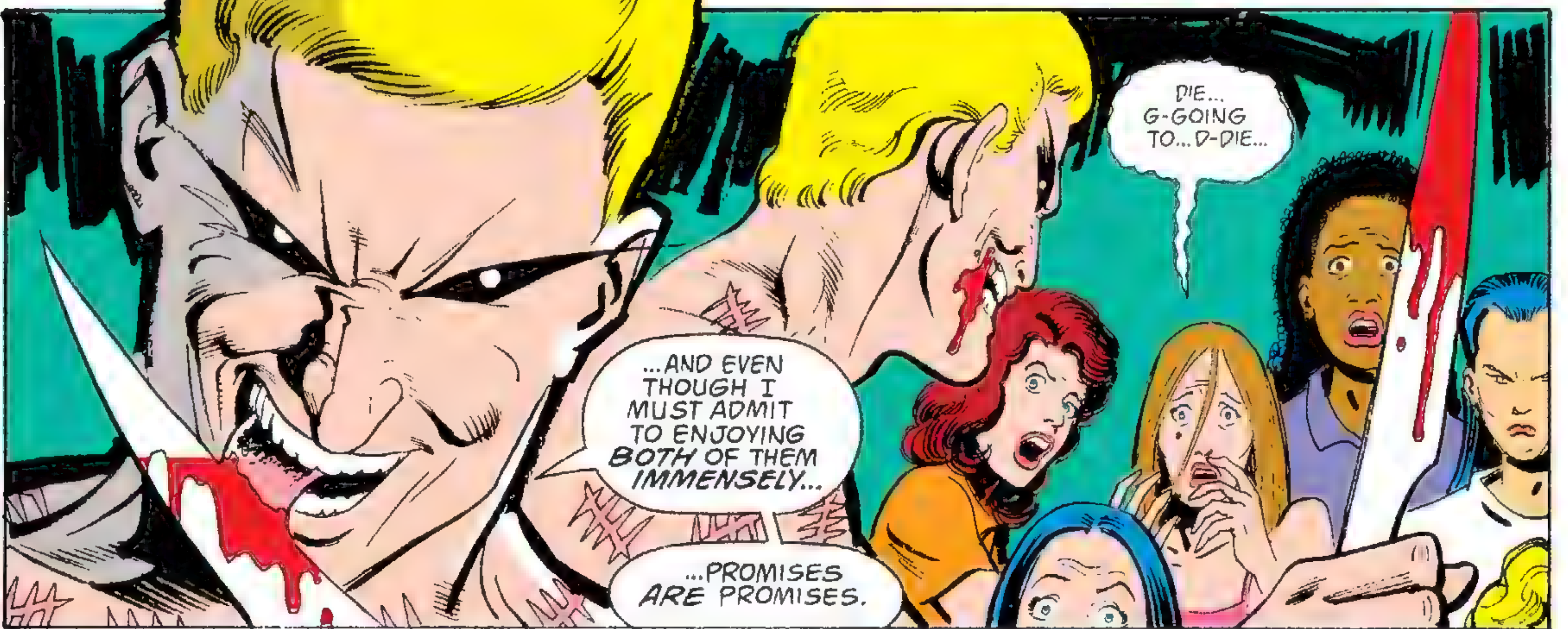
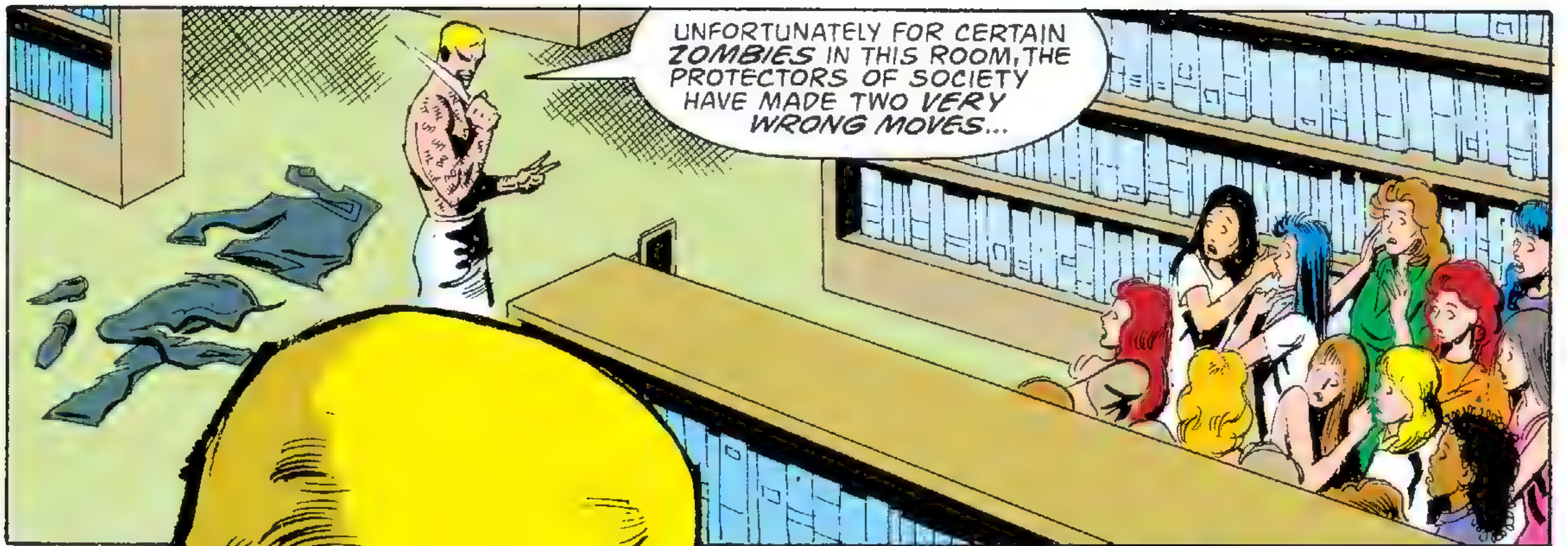
IN THERE--ZSASZ MUST HAVE  
HEARD OR SEEN ME-- DUCKED  
INTO THIS OTHER CLASSROOM...

BUT IF I GO IN  
FAST, BEFORE  
HE CAN--

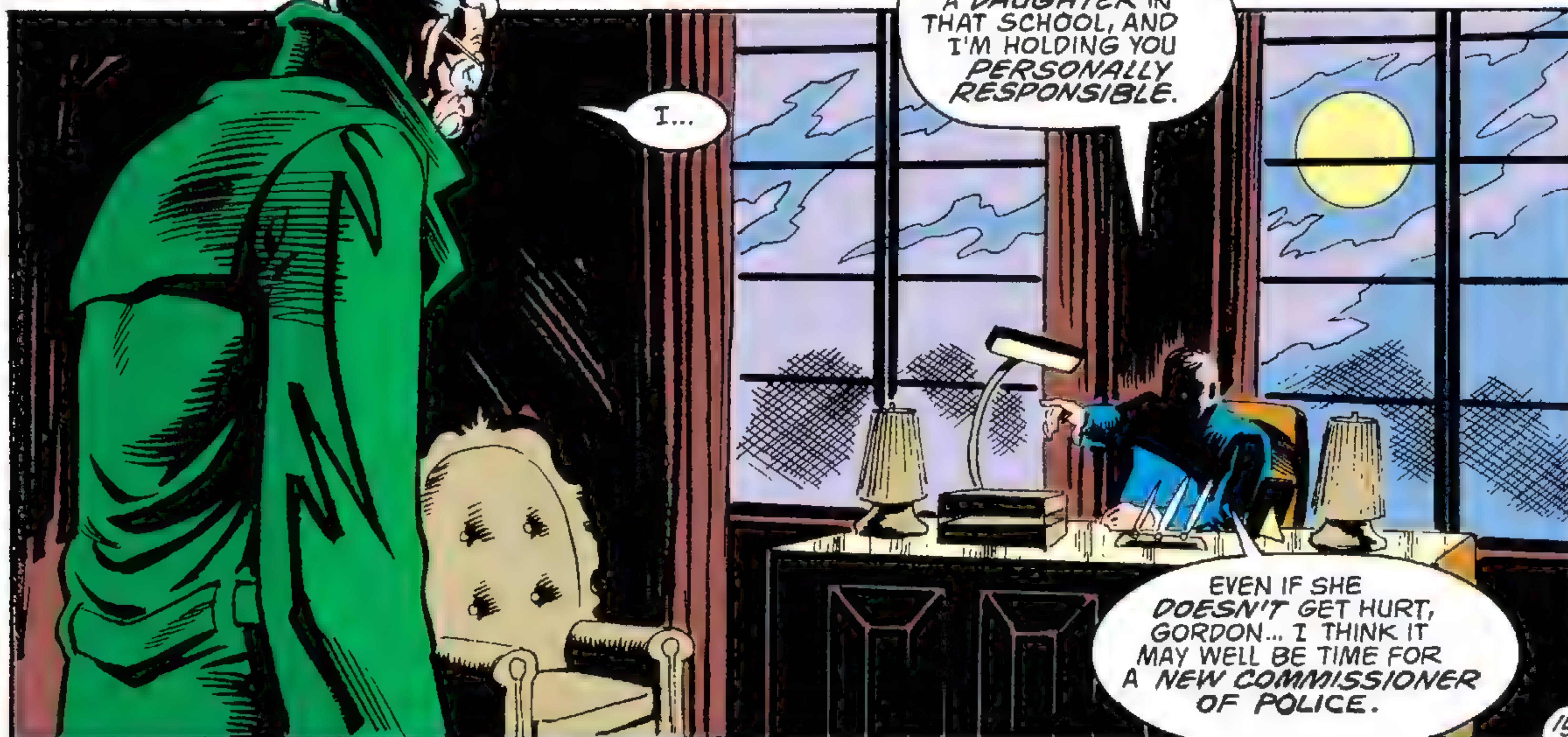
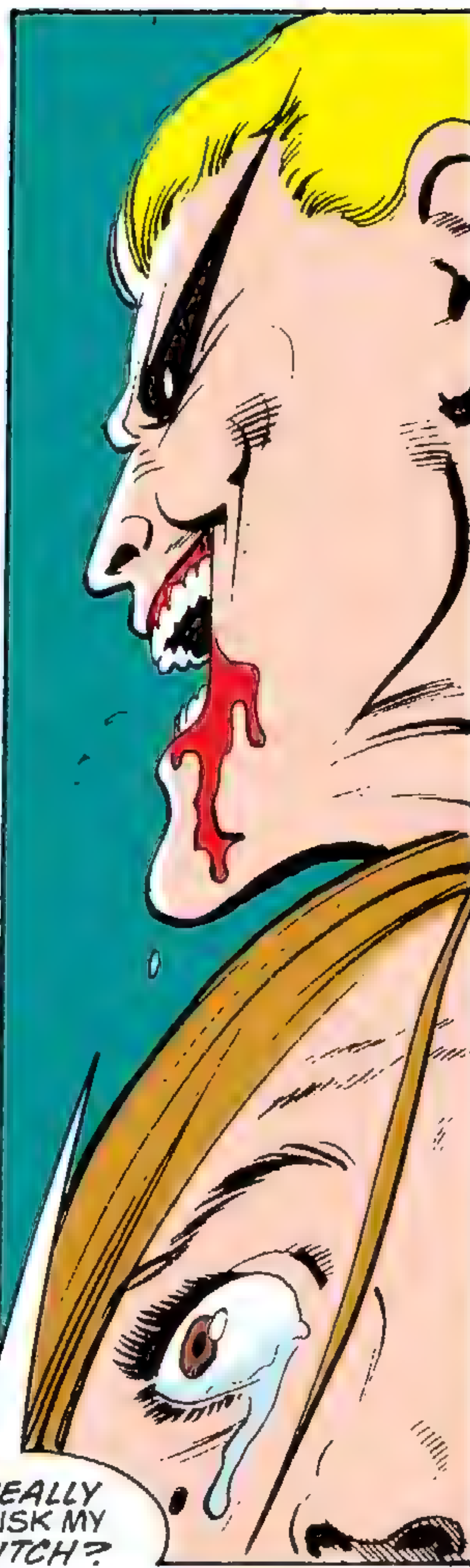
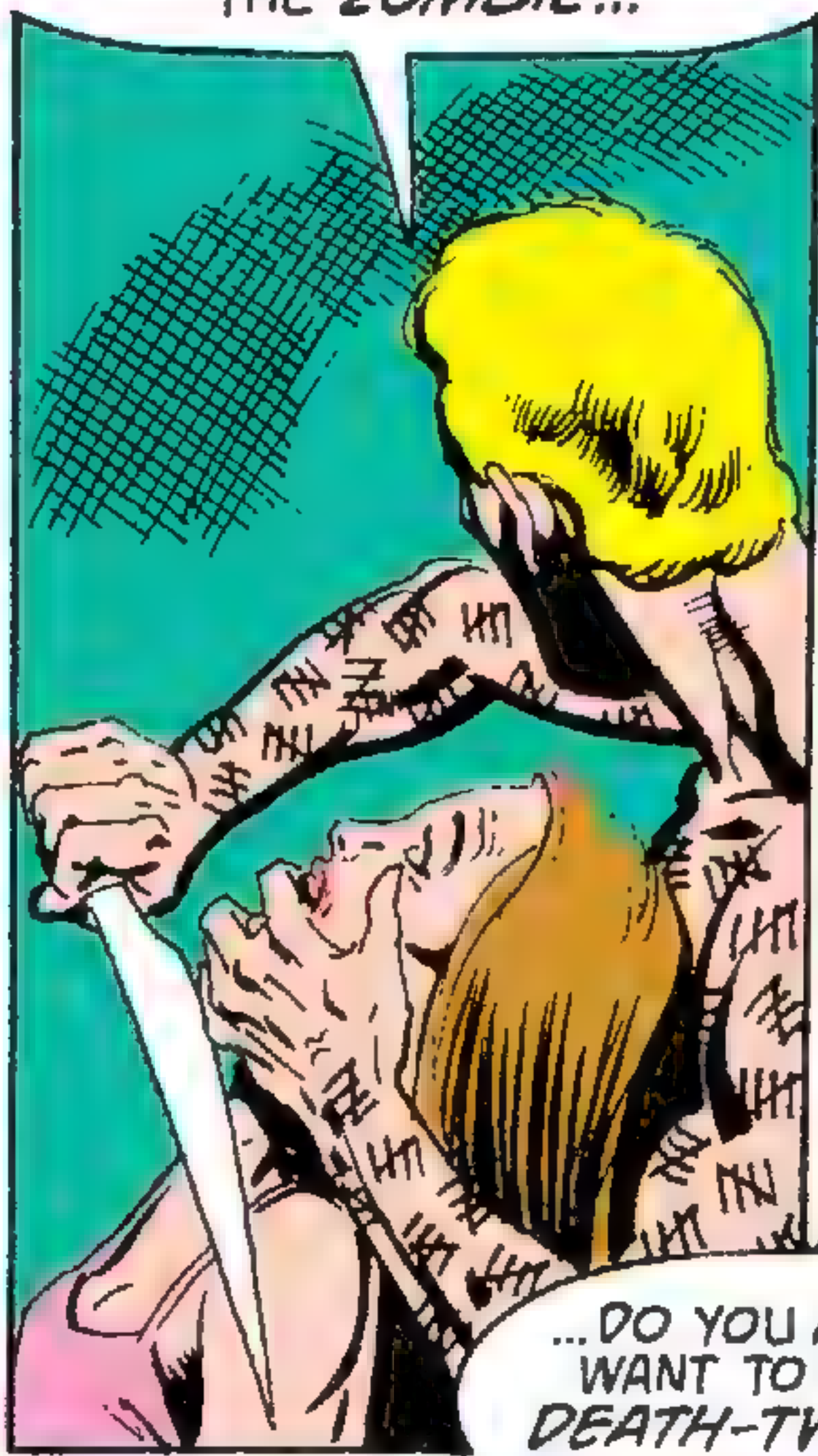
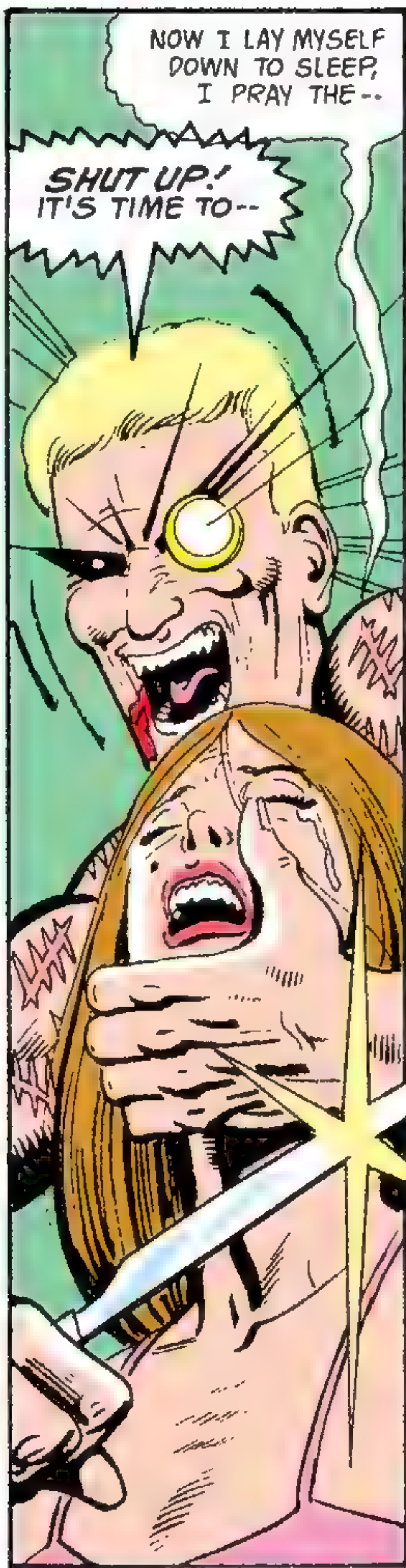




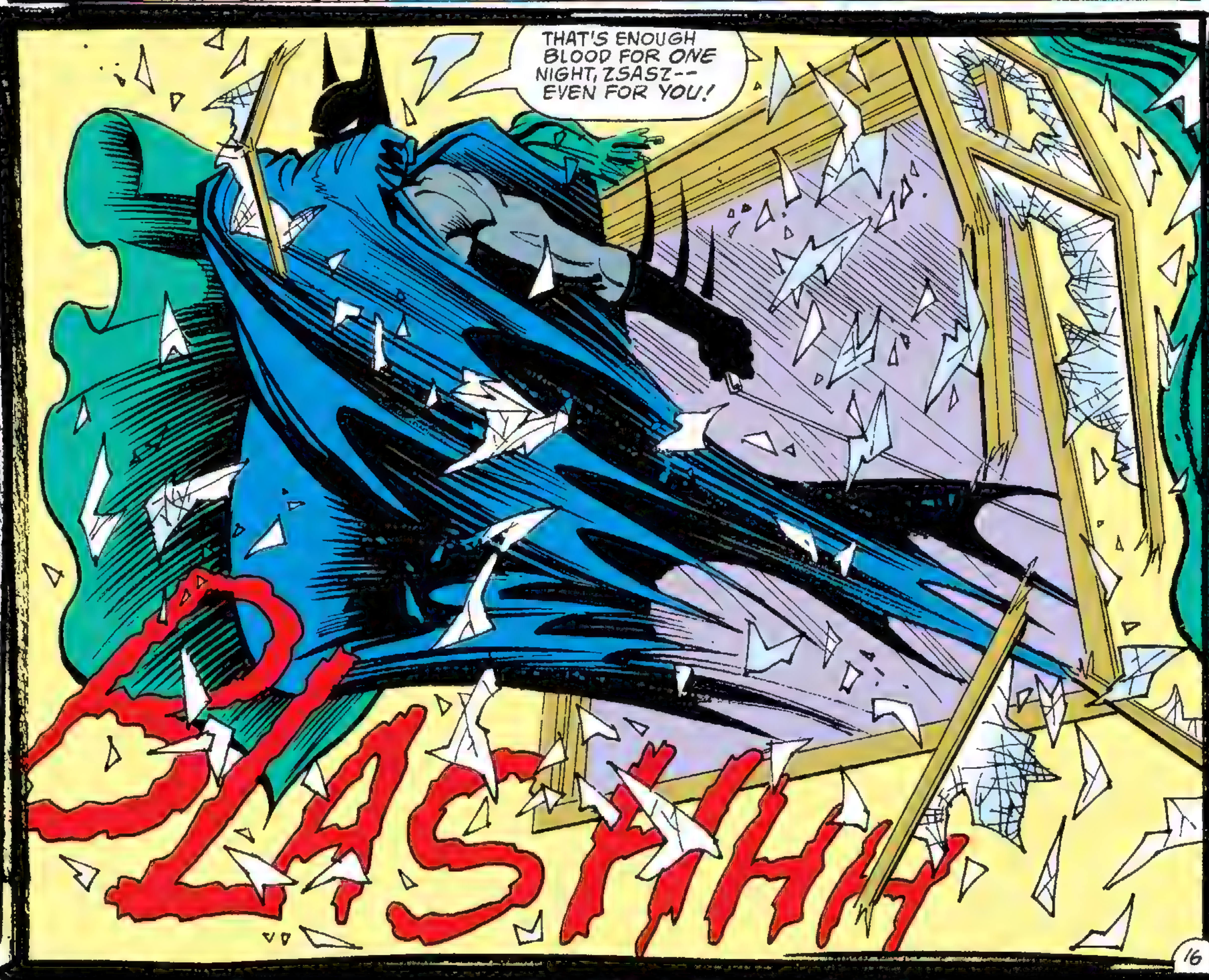
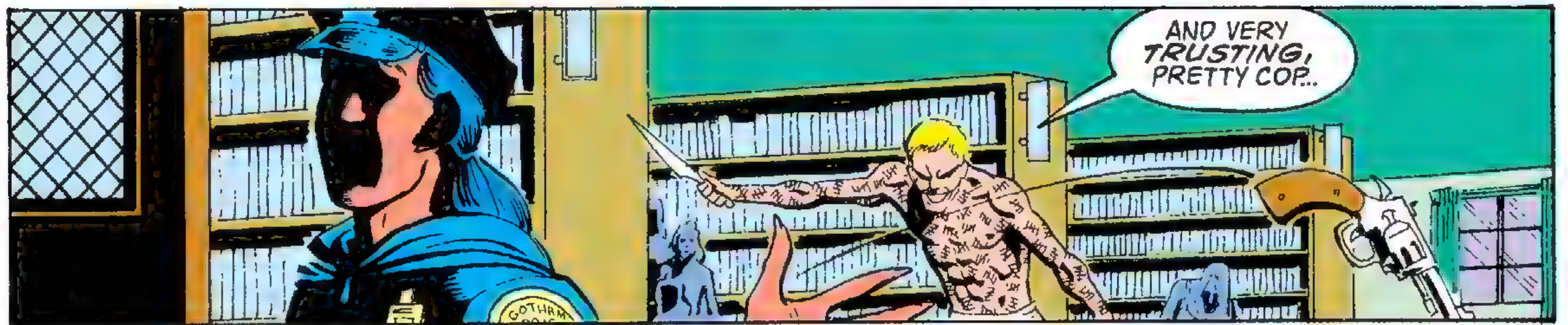














I'M BETWEEN HIM  
AND THE HOSTAGES,  
BUT HE'S PIVOTING  
WITH MY EVERY  
MOVE, KEEPING  
MONTOKA  
BETWEEN US.

DON'T BARGAIN  
WITH HIM-- I  
JUST TRIED IT!

ah, BUT HE'S NOT  
A COP. HE'S JUST  
LIKE ME-- A STALKER  
IN THE DARK... A FIGURE  
OF FEAR... A PREDATOR...

I DON'T KILL,  
ZSASZ.

AND YOU  
LOVE IT,  
DON'T YOU?--  
ESPECIALLY  
WHEN YOU  
BRING YOUR  
PREY DOWN...

ah YES, YOUR "SAVING  
GRACE"--THE ONE FACTOR  
THAT ALLOWS THE ZOMBIES  
TO SANCTION YOUR  
ACTIONS...

...THAT AND YOUR CHOICE OF  
VICTIMS, OF COURSE... BUT  
YOU'D LIKE TO KILL THEM, IF  
ONLY THEY'D LET YOU GET  
AWAY WITH IT...

...BECAUSE IT  
WOULD MAKE  
YOUR WORK  
SO MUCH  
EASIER,  
WOULDN'T IT?...  
AND EVER SO  
MUCH MORE  
SATISFYING.

AND YOU'RE DENYING!  
WE ARE THE SAME! WE  
BOTH LIKE TO COME UP  
ON THEM IN THE DARK,  
FEELING THE FORBIDDEN  
POWER OF IT, SEEING THE  
FEAR SLASHED IN THEIR  
FACES... WE CRAVE IT...

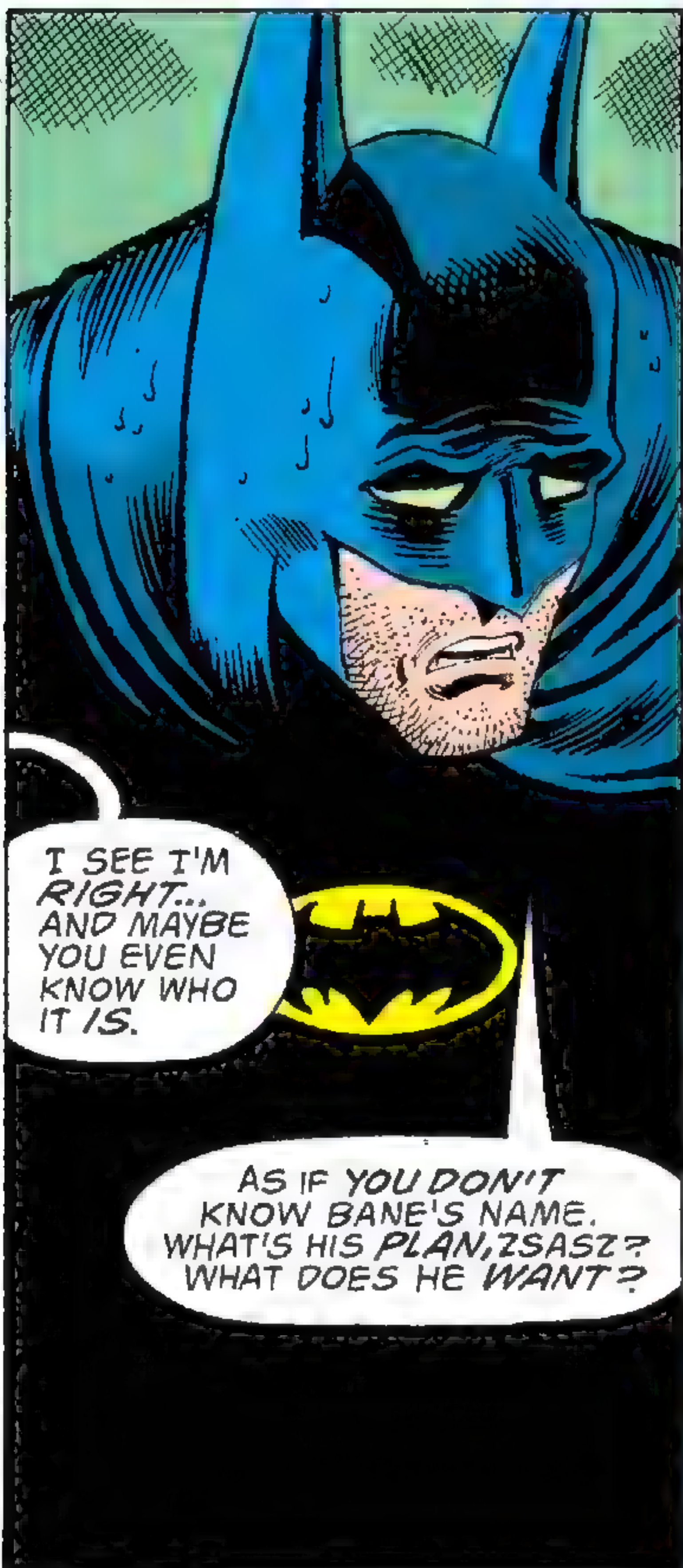
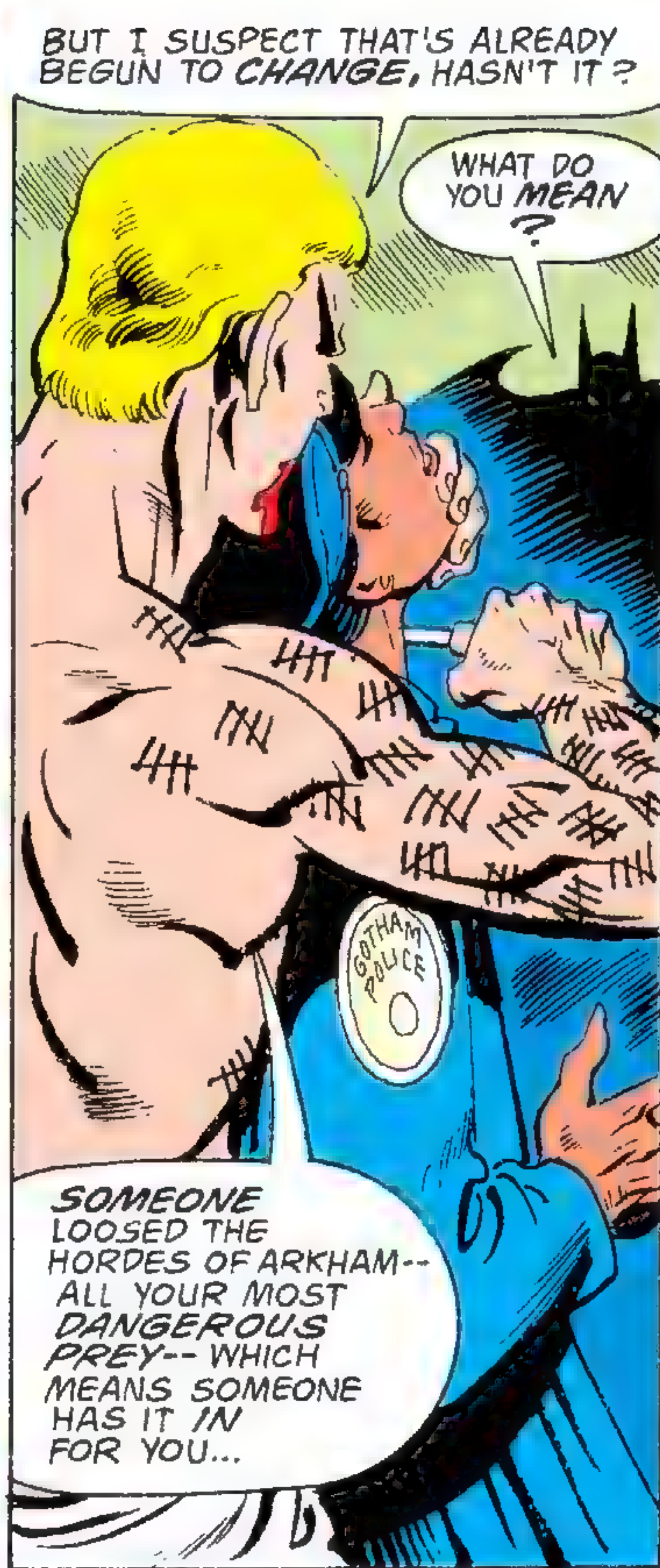
JUST TAKE  
HIM-- DON'T  
WORRY ABOUT  
ME!

TWO COPS  
ALREADY DOWN  
BECAUSE I  
WAS TOO SLOW,  
BECAUSE I'VE  
LOST A STEP,  
AND NOW... I'M  
NOT NEARLY  
FAST ENOUGH  
TO REACH HIM  
BEFORE  
MONTOKA  
GOES DOWN...

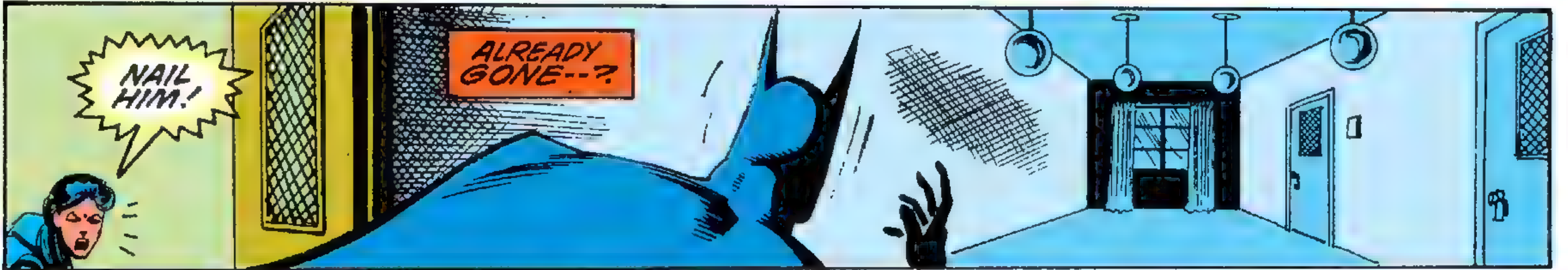
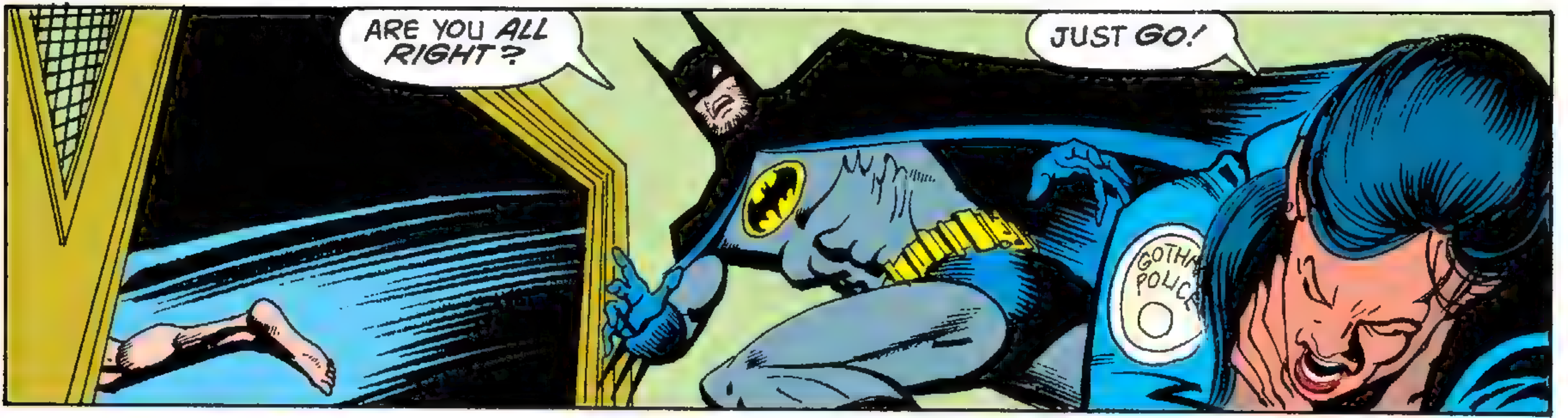
YOU'RE  
WRONG.

WE'RE...  
NOT... THE  
SAME.

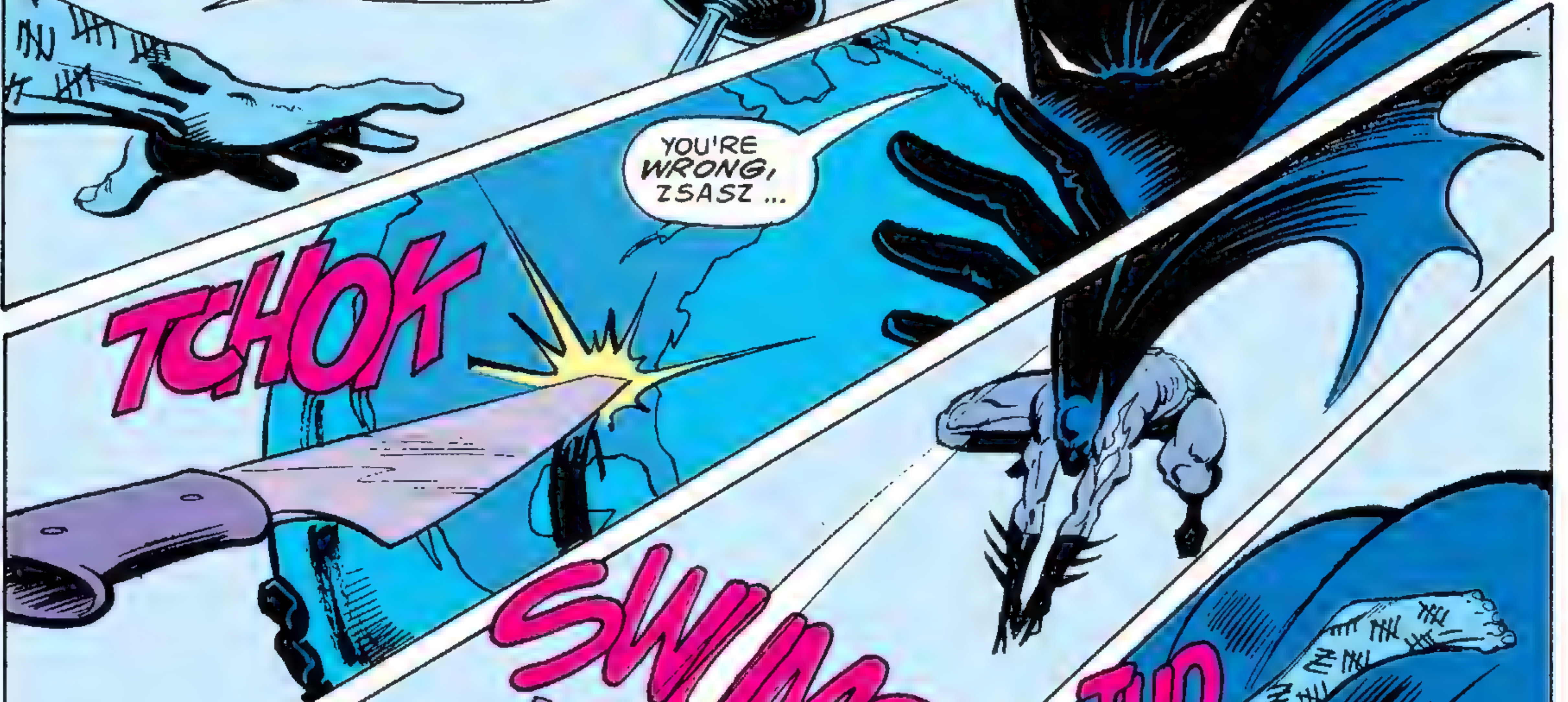
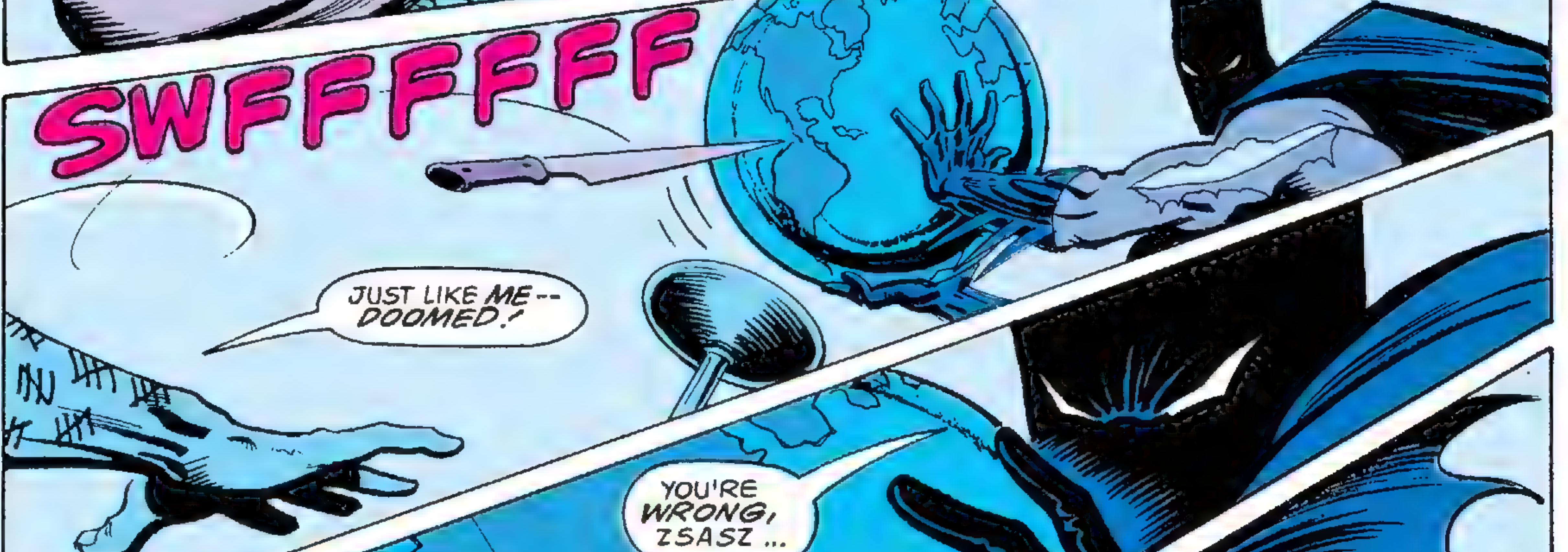
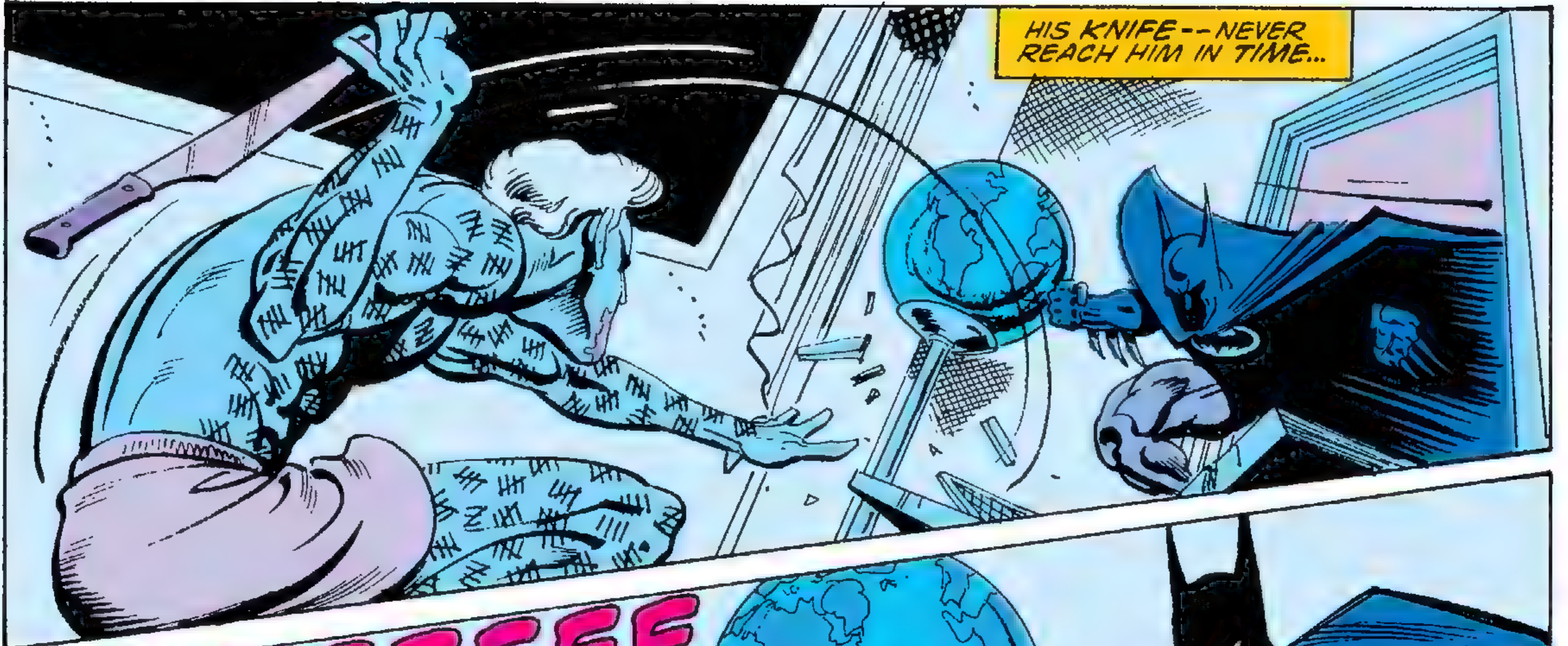




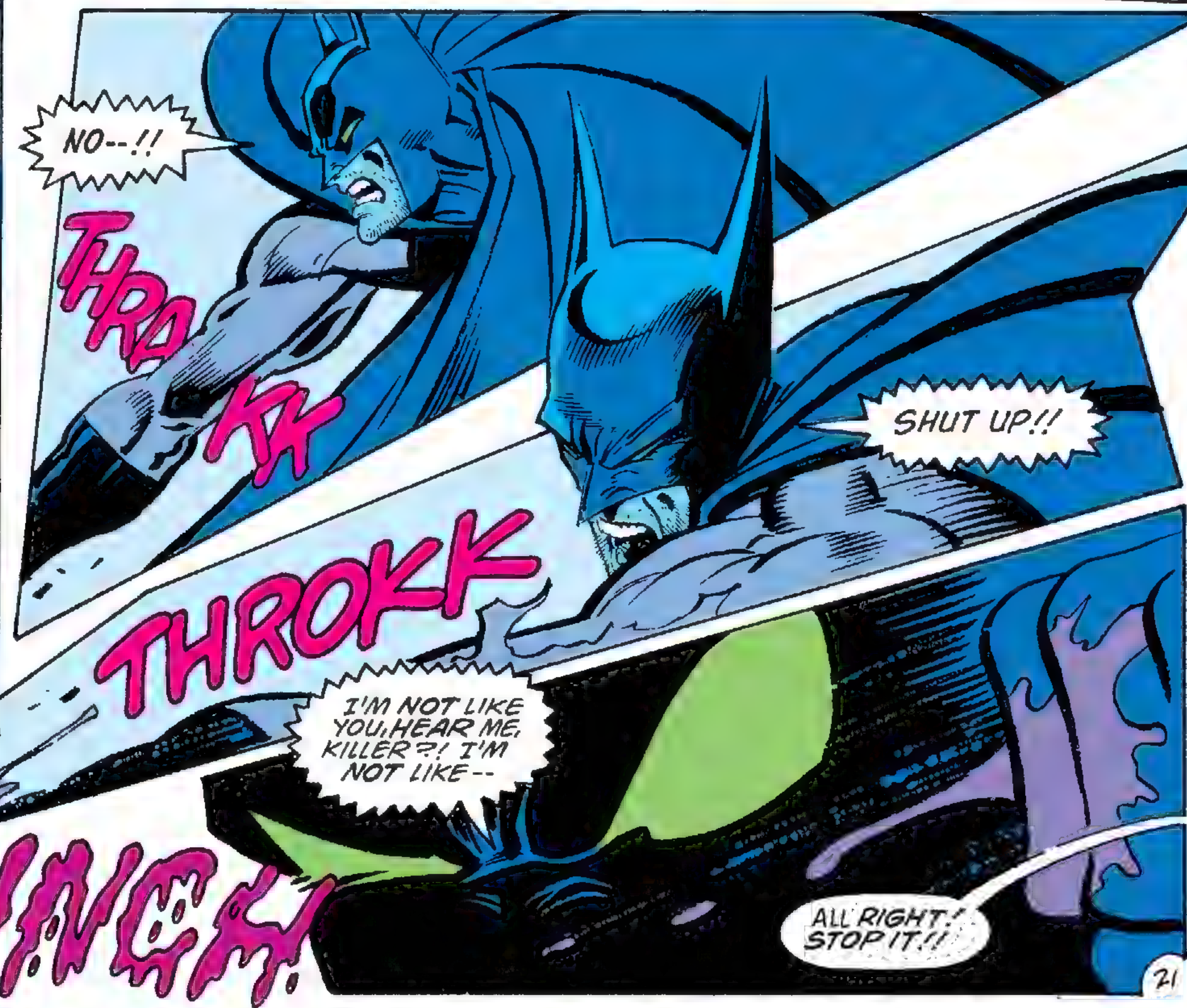




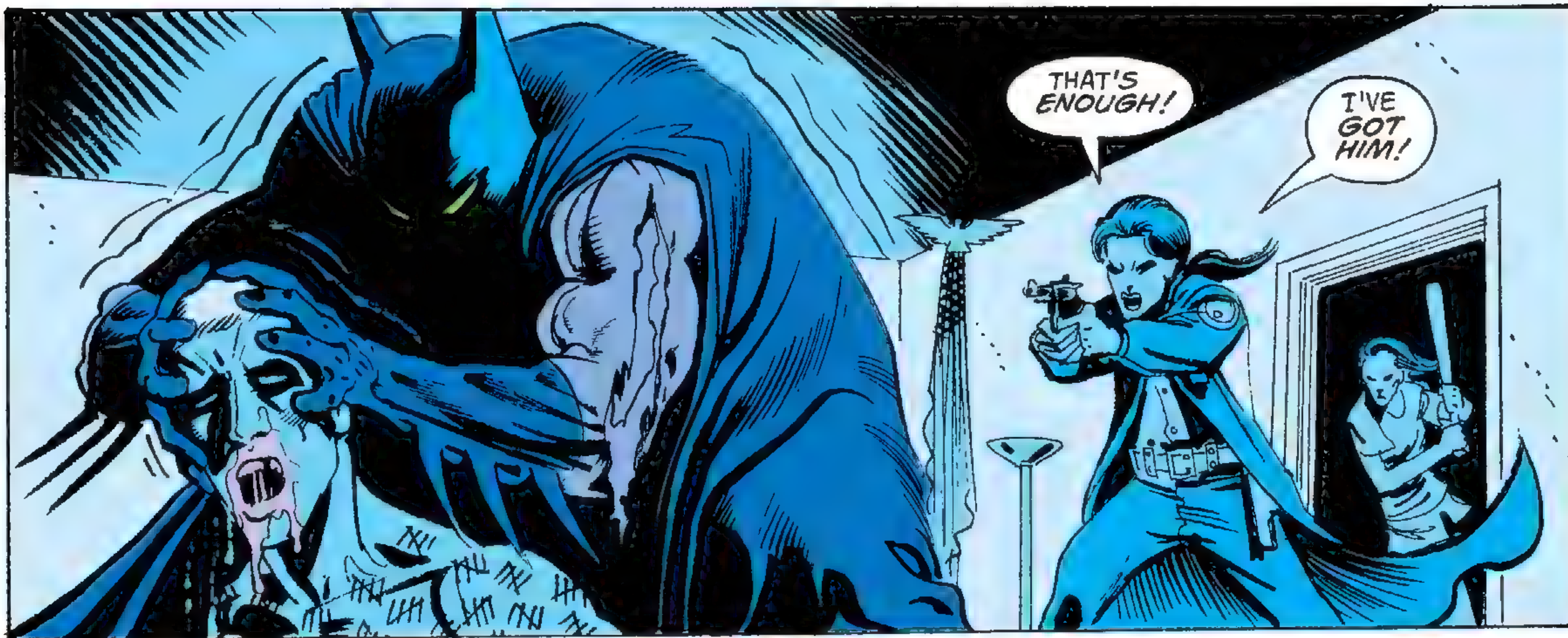












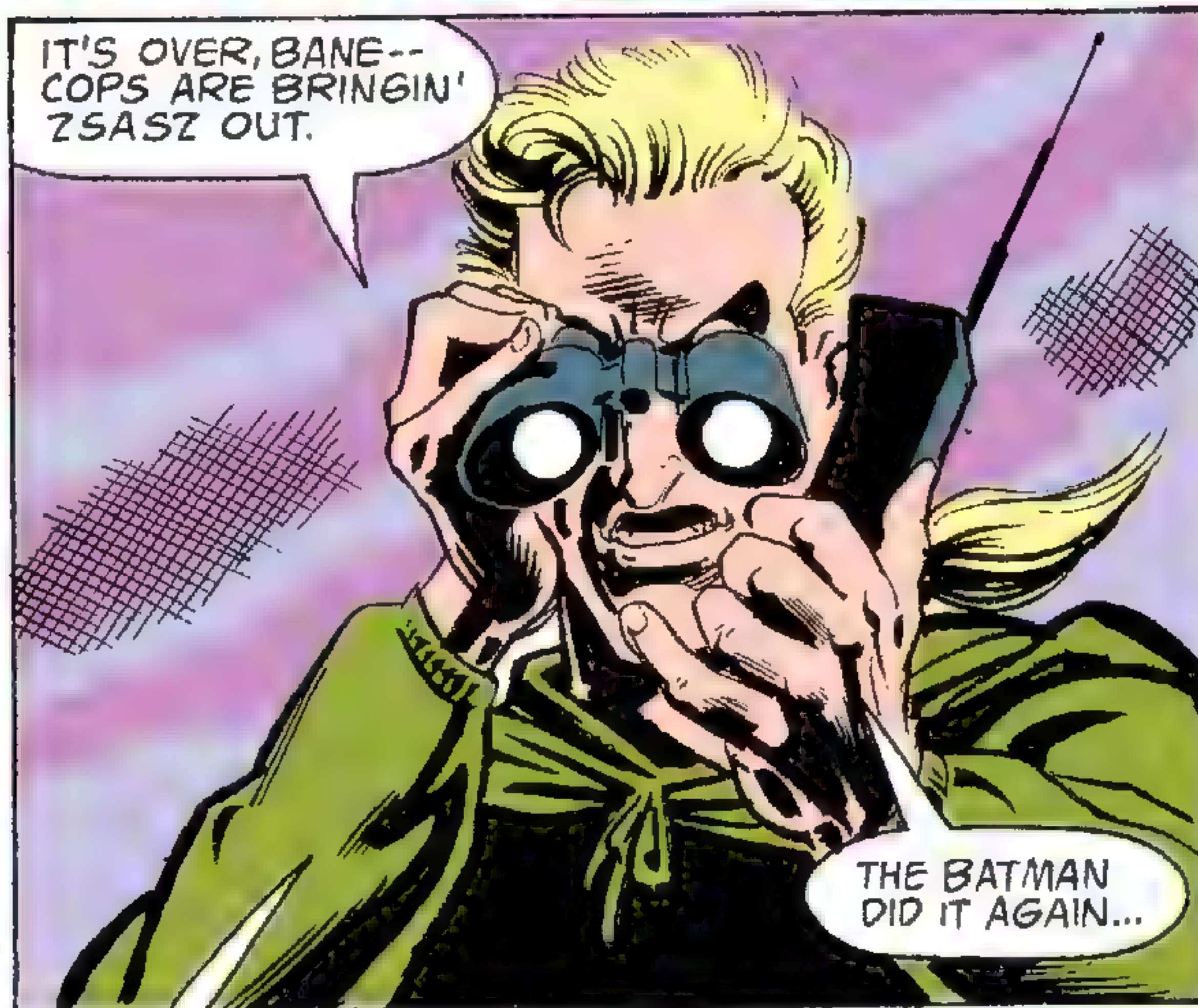
THAT'S ENOUGH!

I'VE GOT HIM!



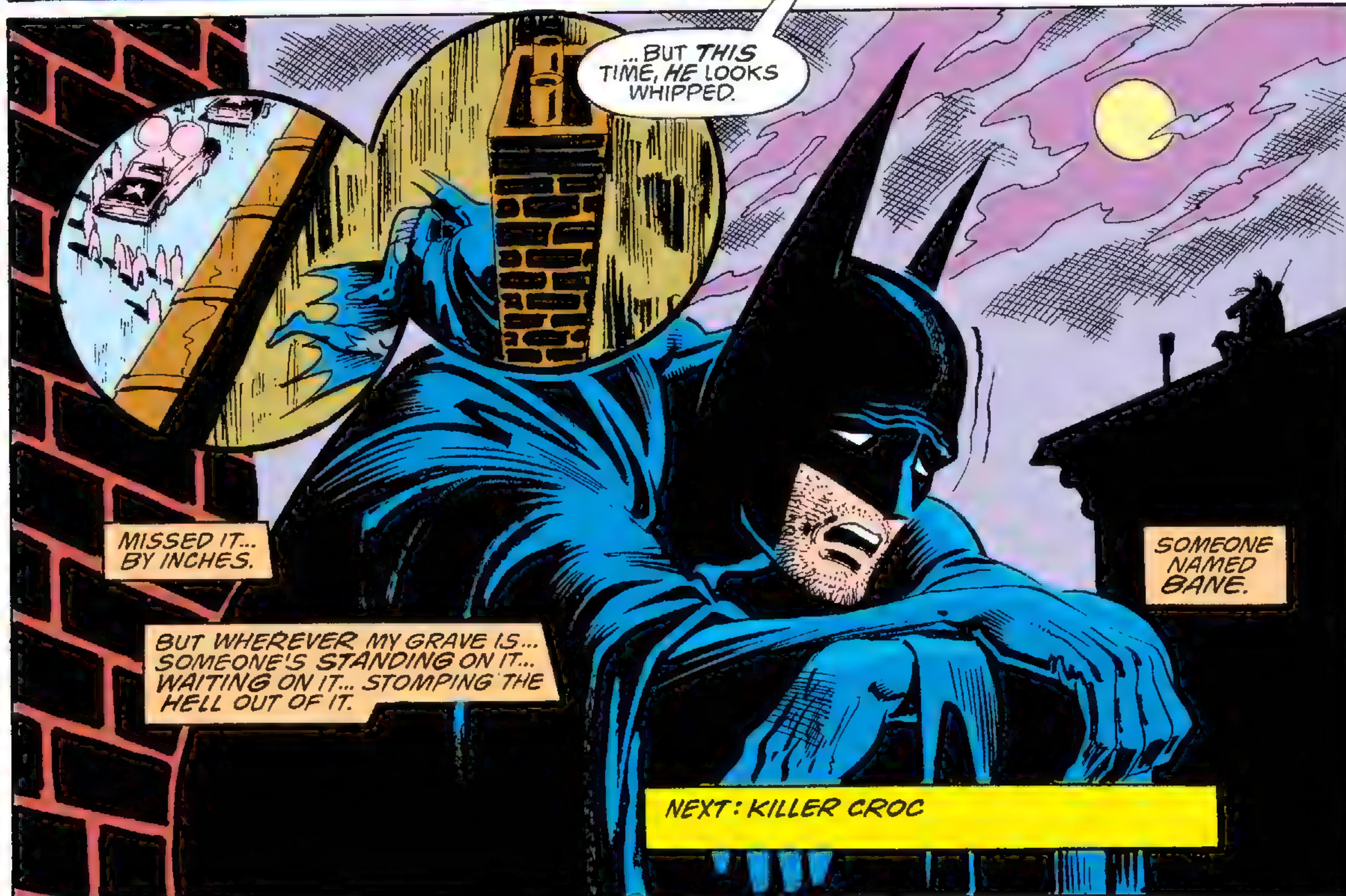
ENOUGH?

NO... TOO MUCH... WAY TOO MUCH.



IT'S OVER, BANE-- COPS ARE BRINGIN' ZSASZ OUT.

THE BATMAN DID IT AGAIN...



BUT THIS TIME, HE LOOKS WHIPPED.

MISSED IT... BY INCHES.

BUT WHEREVER MY GRAVE IS... SOMEONE'S STANDING ON IT... WAITING ON IT... STOMPING THE HELL OUT OF IT.

SOMEONE NAMED BANE.

NEXT: KILLER CROC





KNIGHTFALL



660  
LATE  
MAY 83



DETECTIVE COMICS<sup>®</sup>  
FEATURING

BATMAN<sup>®</sup>







Cover art by  
**SAM KIETH**

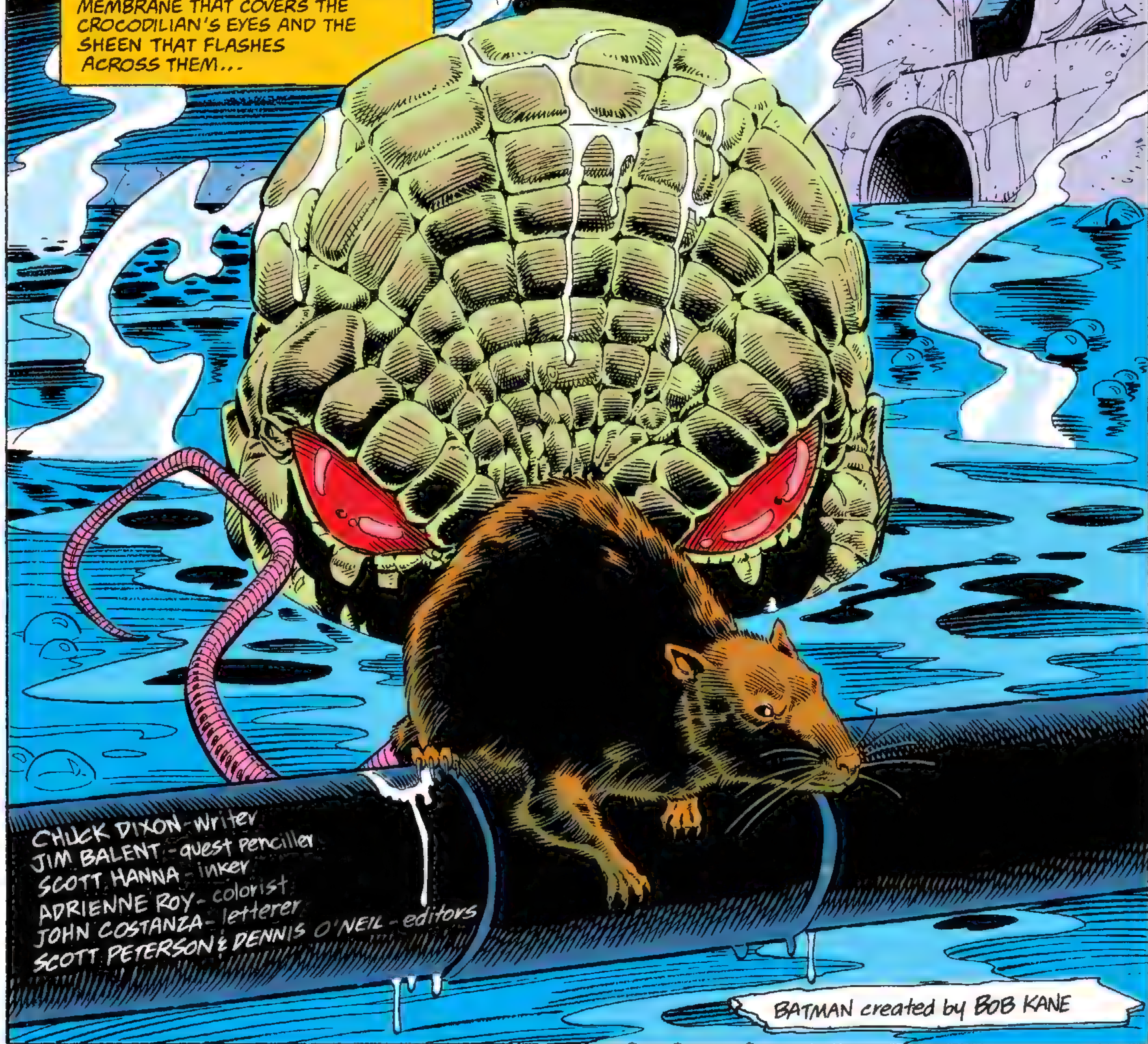


# CROCODILE TEARS

THE EYELIDS OF  
MORNING.

THAT'S THE NAME GIVEN TO  
THE CROCODILE BY THE TRIBES  
THAT LIVE ALONG THE ZAMBEZI.

IT COMES FROM THE TRANSLUCENT  
MEMBRANE THAT COVERS THE  
CROCODILIAN'S EYES AND THE  
SHEEN THAT FLASHES  
ACROSS THEM...



CHUCK DIXON - writer  
JIM BALENT - quest penciller  
SCOTT HANNA - inker  
ADRIENNE ROY - colorist  
JOHN COSTANZA - letterer  
SCOTT PETERSON & DENNIS O'NEIL - editors

BATMAN created by BOB KANE



...AS HE STRIKES!



MORE REPTILE THAN MAN,  
A MIND SURRENDERED TO  
RAW INSTINCT AND ANIMAL  
DRIVE.

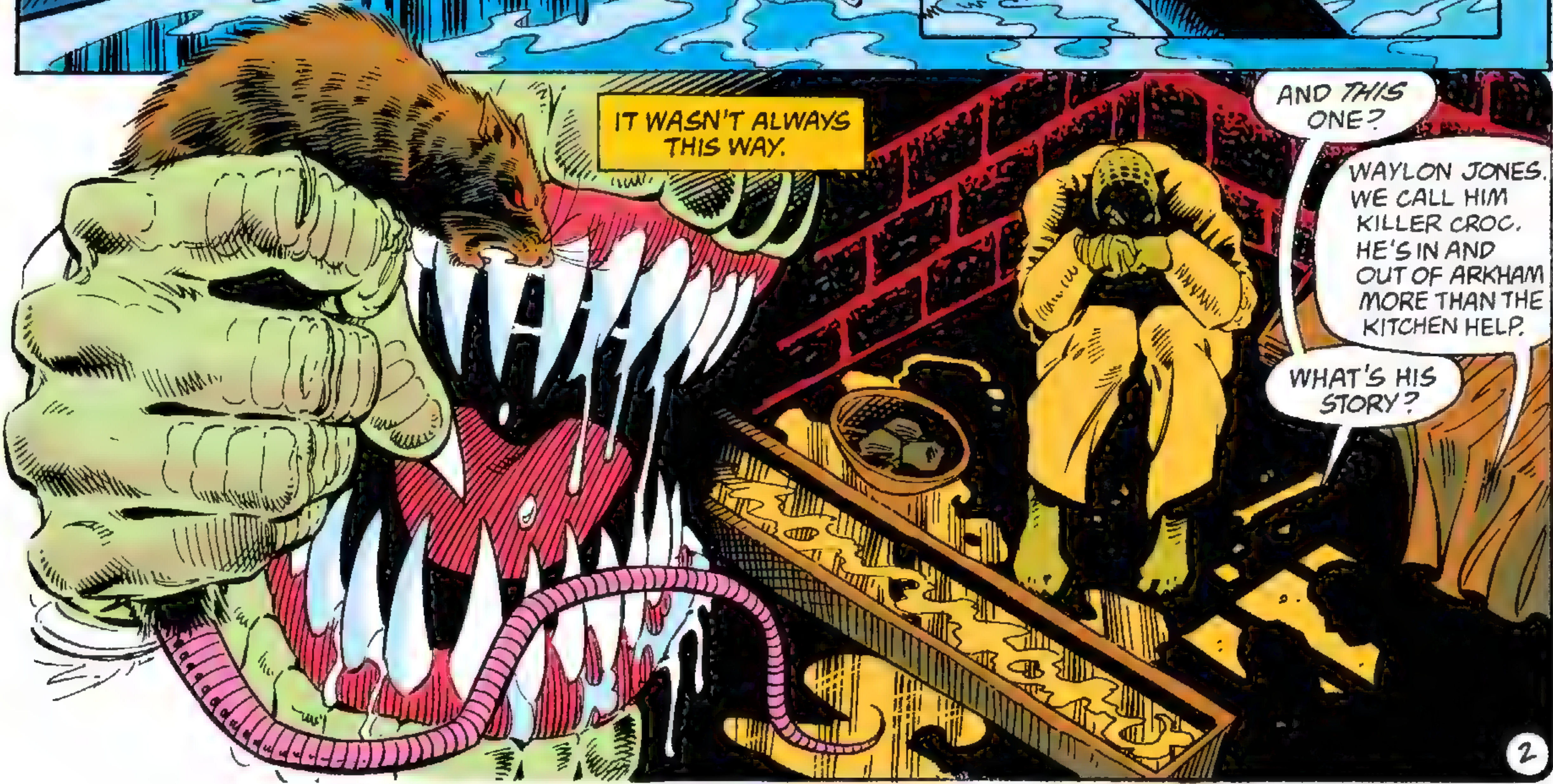
YESSSSSS.  
SO HUNGRY...

YOU'LL GO DOWN  
EASY... LITTLE  
ONE...

REEEEEE

REEEEEE

IT WASN'T ALWAYS  
THIS WAY.



AND THIS  
ONE?

WAYLON JONES.  
WE CALL HIM  
KILLER CROC.  
HE'S IN AND  
OUT OF ARKHAM  
MORE THAN THE  
KITCHEN HELP.

WHAT'S HIS  
STORY?





YOU'D NEVER KNOW IT TO LOOK AT HIM BUT HE RAN GOTHAM'S TOP MOB FOR A WHILE. NOW HE'S JUST ANOTHER HOPELESS NUTJOB.

HE BREAK HIS ARMS IN HERE?



NAW, THAT'S THE WAY THE COPS FOUND HIM. SOMEBODY HANDED HIM A REAL BEATING.

JEEZ. I'D HATE TO MEET THAT GUY.



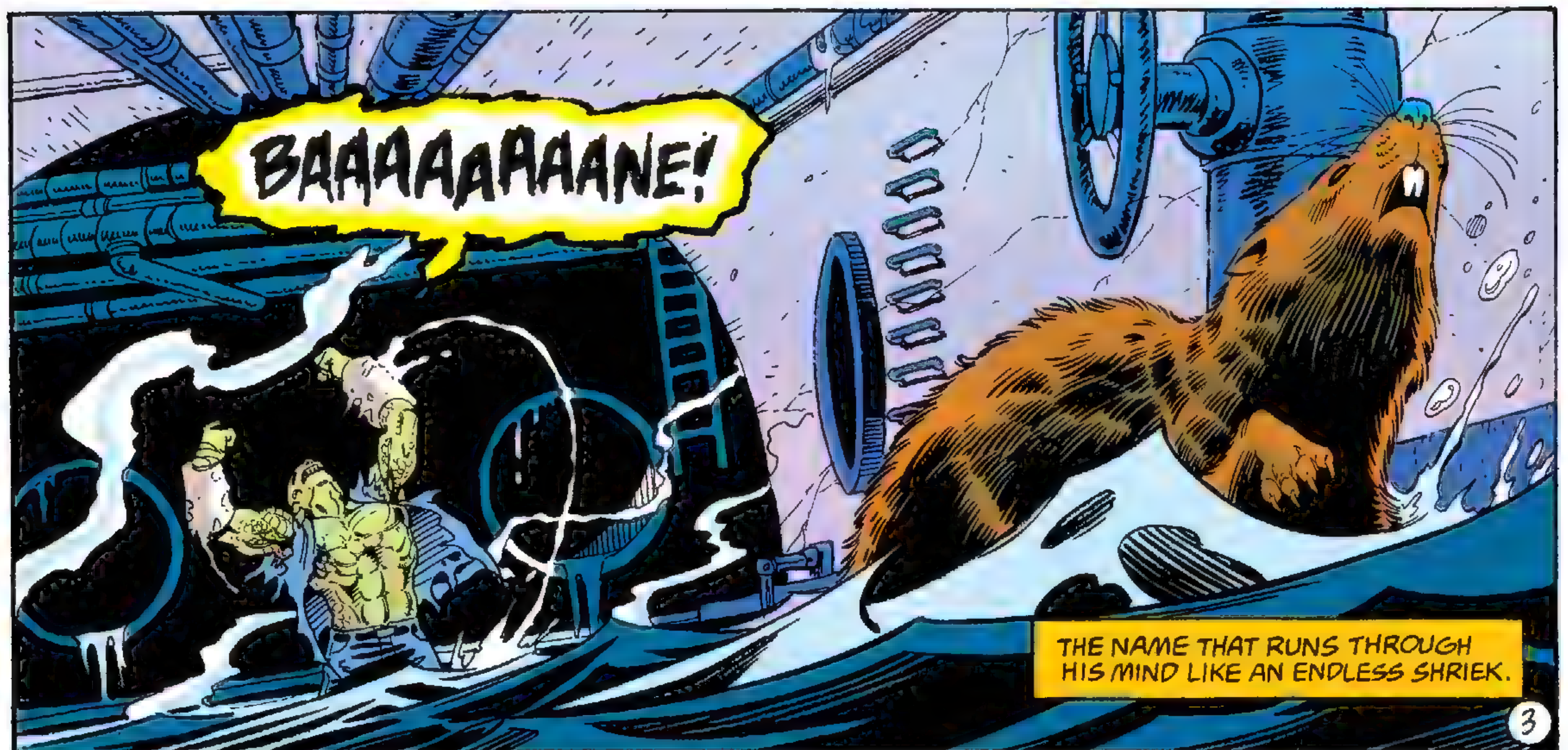
ANY IDEA WHO RACKED HIM UP?

CROC WAS IN NO SHAPE TO TELL US. I DOUBT HE EVEN KNOWS.



"THAT LUNATIC LOST WHAT-EVER MIND HE HAD A LONG TIME AGO."

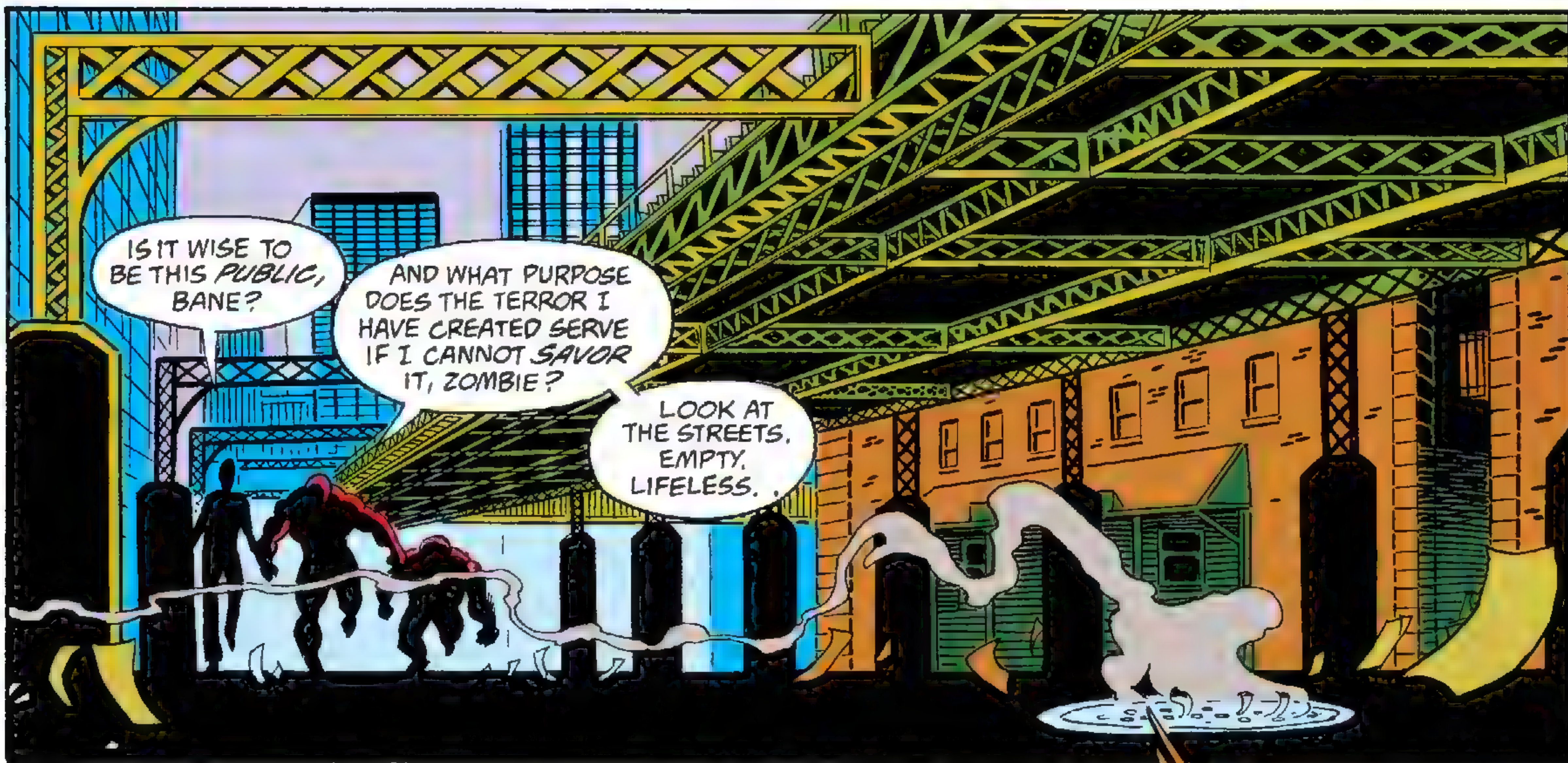
BUT HE KNOWS. HE KNOWS THE NAME OF THE ONE WHO HURT HIM.



BAAAAAANE!

THE NAME THAT RUNS THROUGH HIS MIND LIKE AN ENDLESS SHRIEK.









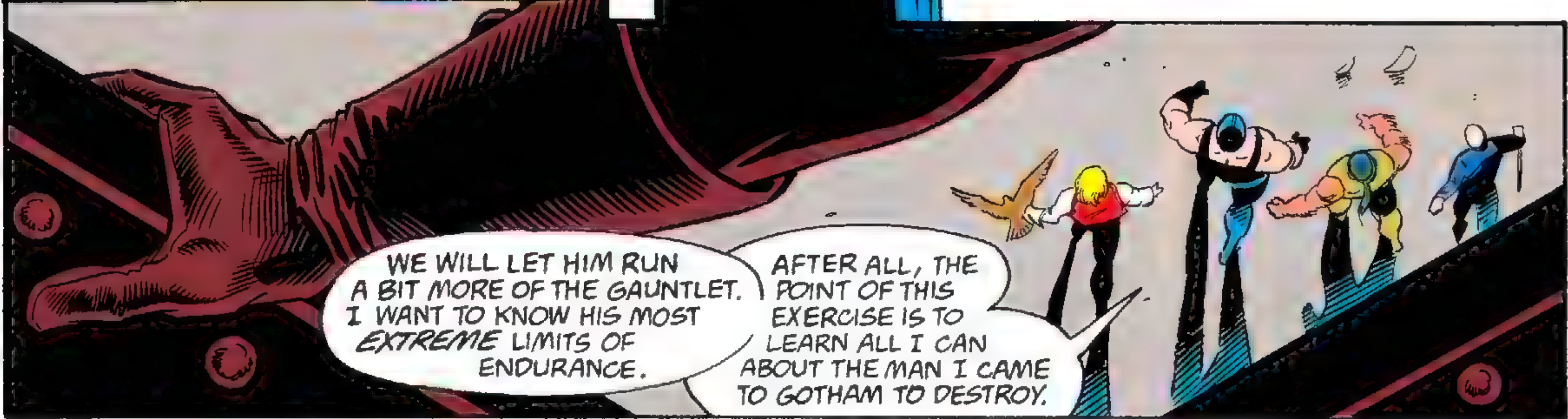
HE'S WHIPPED, BANE.

TELL ME MORE.



BATMAN'S AT THE END OF HIS ROPE. HE DON'T KNOW WHICH WAY TO JUMP.

HE HASN'T EVEN RUN UP AGAINST THE MAJOR LEAGUE CRAZIES THAT WE LET OUT OF ARKHAM AND ALREADY HE'S LOOKING BEAT.



WE WILL LET HIM RUN A BIT MORE OF THE GAUNTLET. I WANT TO KNOW HIS MOST EXTREME LIMITS OF ENDURANCE.

AFTER ALL, THE POINT OF THIS EXERCISE IS TO LEARN ALL I CAN ABOUT THE MAN I CAME TO GOTHAM TO DESTROY.



THE BATMAN.

THIS IS NOT GOOD.



THIS GUY'S OUT TO TAKE DOWN BATMAN AND GOTHAM CITY. AND HE'S SERIOUS ABOUT IT.

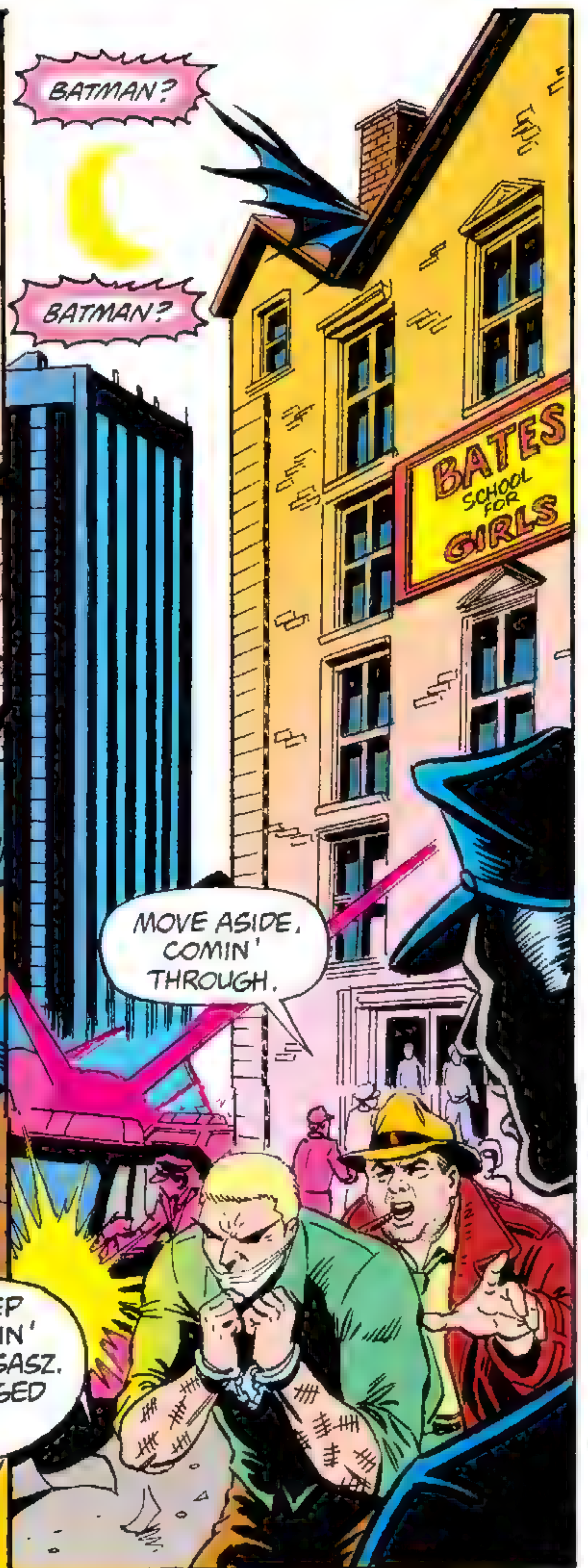
ROBIN TO BATMAN ON CLOSED CHANNEL. YOU READING ME, BATMAN? I'M STILL FOLLOWING BANE, AS WE AGREED...





ROBIN TO BATMAN.  
ARE YOU OUT  
THERE, BATMAN?

BATMAN, YOU'VE GOT  
TO COME IN...



BATMAN?

BATMAN?

MOVE ASIDE,  
COMIN'  
THROUGH.



MMPH.  
URGH.

YOU JUST KEEP  
RIGHT ON STARIN'  
HOLES IN ME, ZSASZ.  
I BEEN EYE-BUGGED  
BY BETTER THAN  
YOU.

WE GOT A  
NICE LITTLE  
CELL WAITIN'  
FOR YOU.



AND YOU BETTER STAY THERE,  
PAL. 'CAUSE THE NEXT TIME  
YOU GET OUT I'LL MAKE  
SURE THERE'S NO OTHER  
COPS AROUND.

JUST YOU, AND ME, AND  
SMITH AND WESSON.



I'D DO YOU RIGHT HERE  
AND NOW BUT I DON'T WANT  
TO SPEND THE REST OF MY  
TWENTY TALKING TO  
INTERNAL AFFAIRS HUMPS.



"BESIDES, I GOT A LOT OF OTHER LOONIES TO LOOK FOR."

MR. DETWEILER...?

MR. DETWEILER, ATTORNEY AT LAW...?

WHUZZ?

WHAH?

WHAT IS THIS? WHO ARE YOU?

YOU CAN CALL ME *SOCKO*, COUNSELOR. AND YOU ALREADY KNOW YOUR VALUED CLIENT, THE VENTRILOQUIST.

WHAT DO YOU WANT?

YOU WERE THE LAST TO DEFEND MY PAL AND HIS GUDDY SCARFACE. WE WANT TO KNOW WHERE SCARFACE GOT TO.

THIS IS ALL ABOUT THAT STUPID PUPPET? YOU'RE NUTS. WHY SHOULD I HELP YOU FIND ANYTHING?

'CAUSE GULLETS MAKE NASTY HOLES.

"DARNED IF YOU DO, DARNED IF YOU DON'T." THAT'S *SOCK* HUMOR, COUNSELOR.

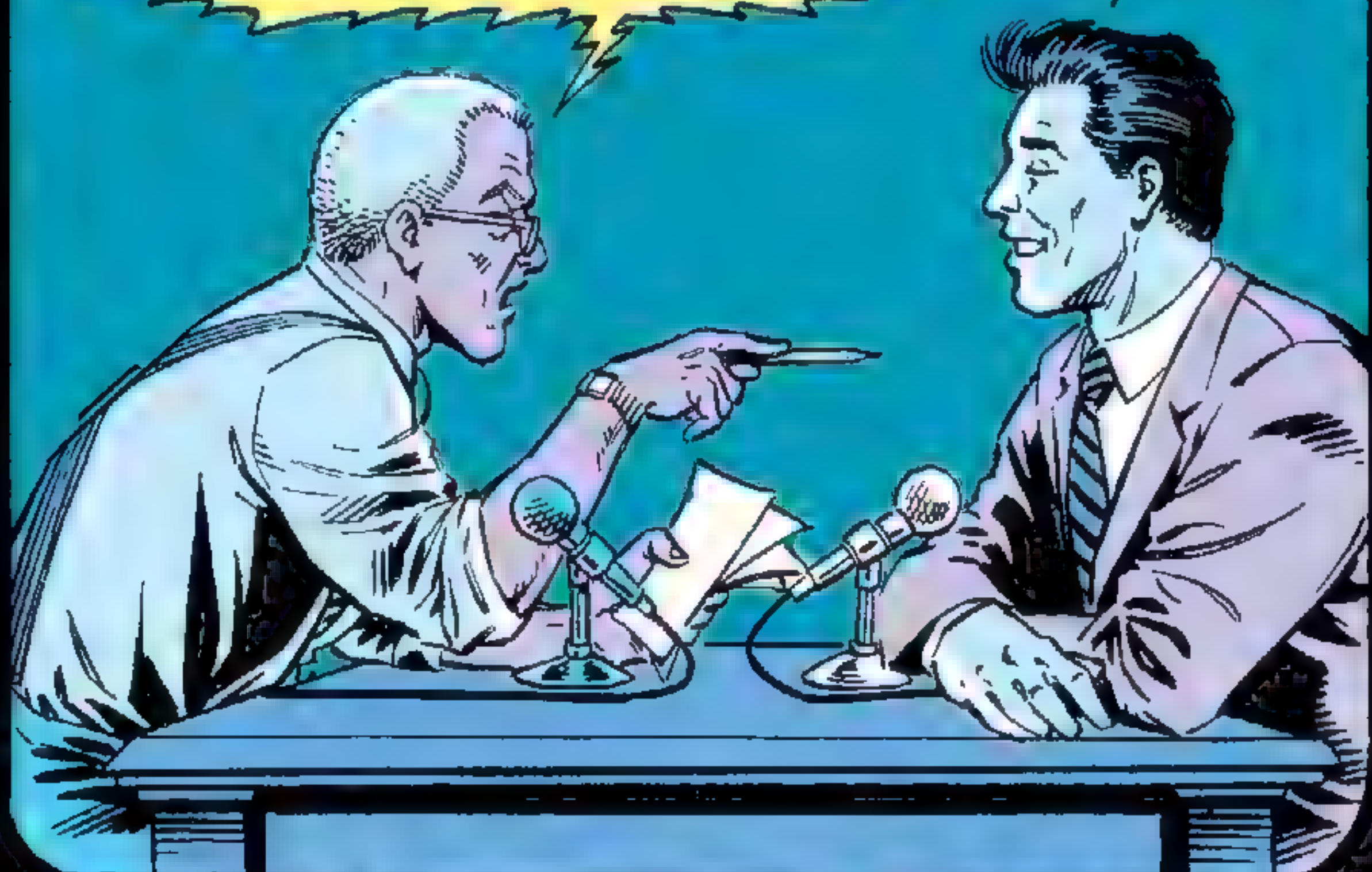


--AND BACK TO THE HARRY MANN SHOW. OUR GUEST IS DR. SIMPSON FLANDERS. HE'S HERE TO TRY AND MAKE SENSE OF THIS WHOLE ARKHAM SITUATION.



WE'VE GOT A CITY PARALYZED WITH FEAR. THE STREETS ARE FULL OF WACKOS WITH ASSAULT WEAPONS. AND YOU THINK YOU'VE GOT THE SOLUTION?

I DO, HARRY.



YOU SEE, ALL OF THIS PANIC AND STRESS HAS CREATED A HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT FOR THE INMATES.



FEAR FEEDS ON FEAR AND ONLY SERVES TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE.

EXACTLY, AS DETAILED IN MY BOOK, "I'M SANE AND SO ARE YOU," THE MENTALLY DIVERGENT SHOULD BE MADE TO FEEL AT EASE IN OUR ENVIRONMENT.



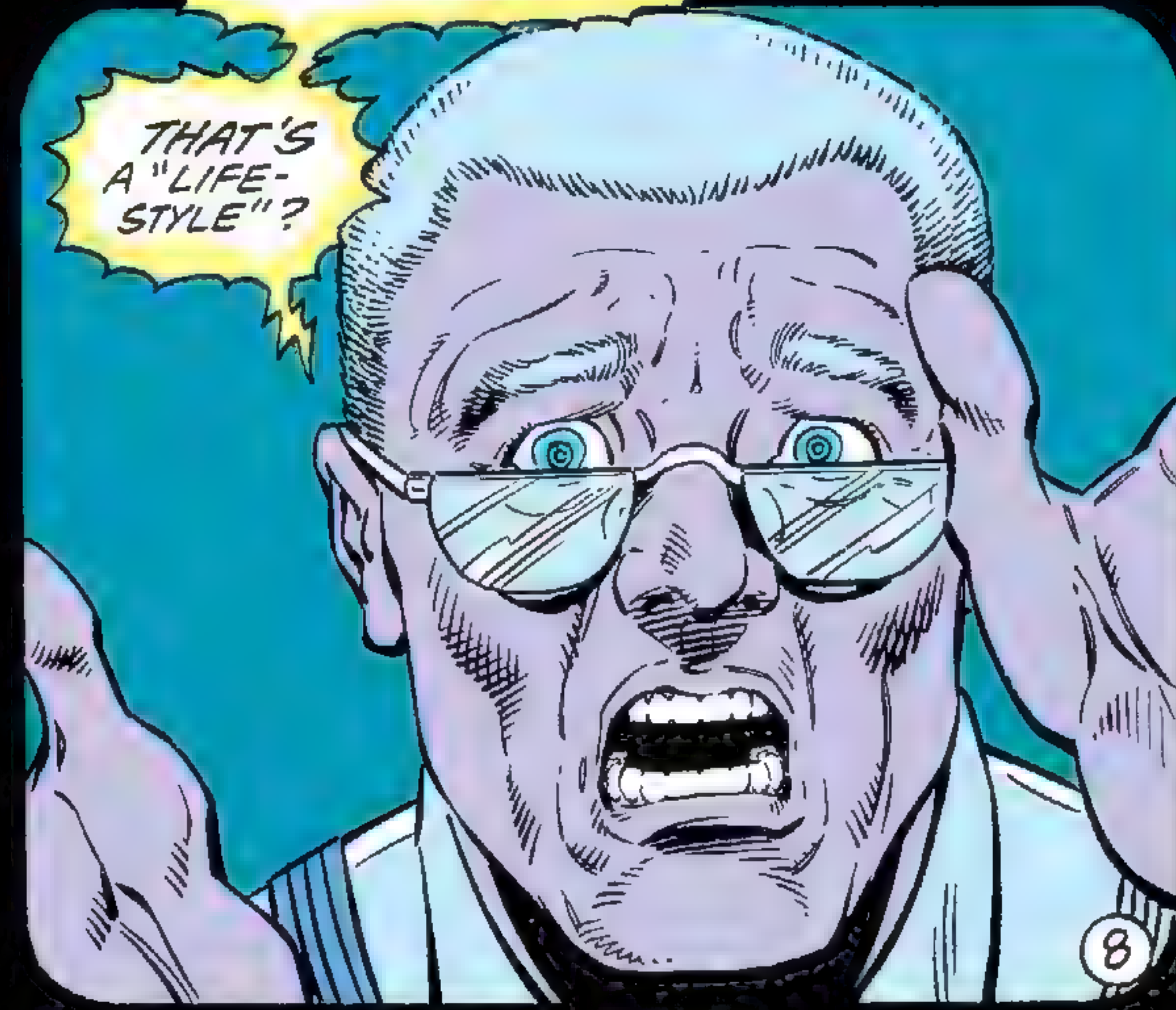
A CLIMATE OF MISTRUST AND SUSPICION ONLY TENDS TO MAKE THEM FEEL INSECURE IN THEIR CHOICE OF LIFESTYLES.

YOU'RE SAYING THAT BY BEING AFRAID OF AN ARMY OF HOMICIDAL MANIACS LOOSE ON OUR STREETS WE'RE ANTAGONIZING THEM?

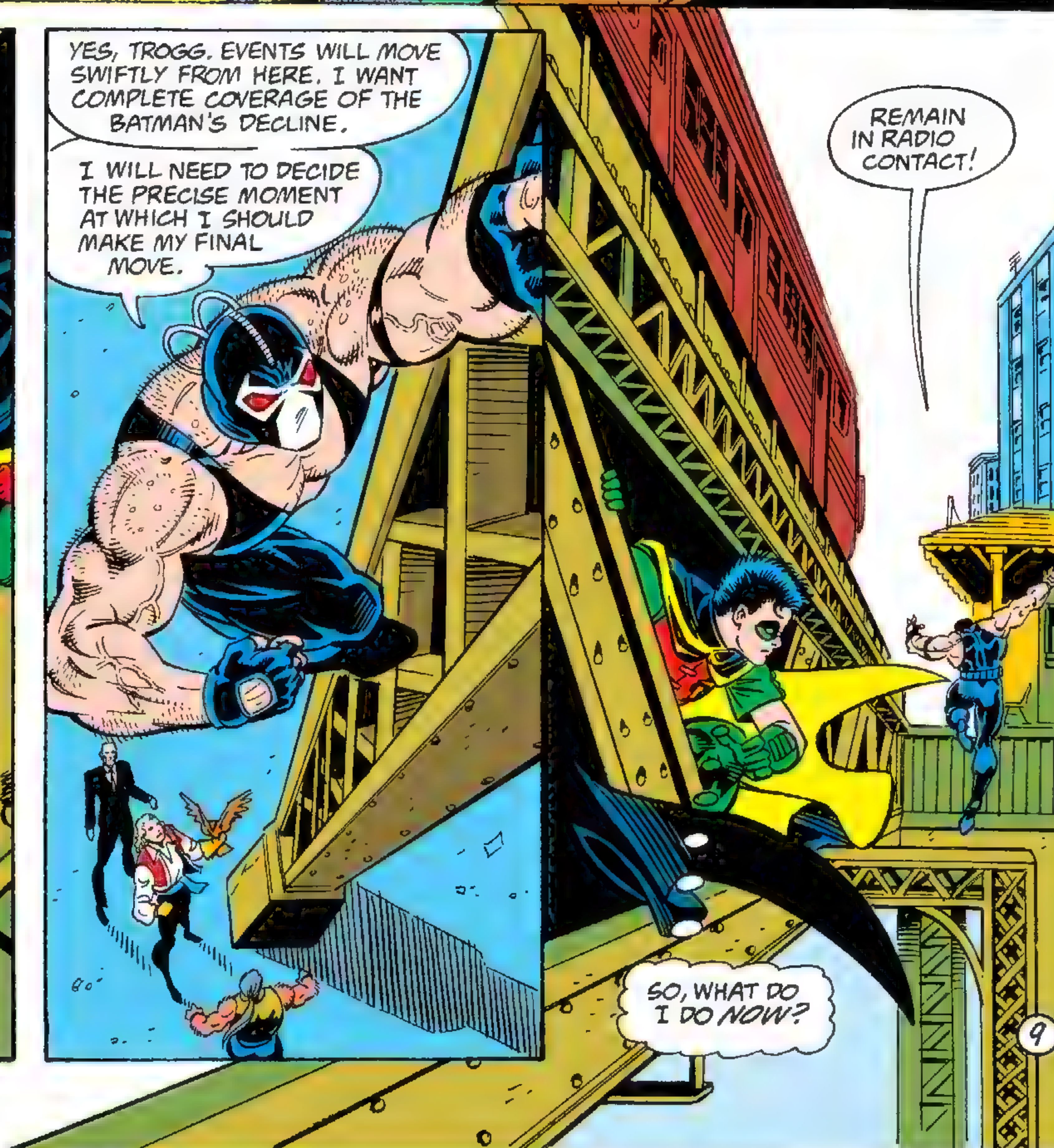
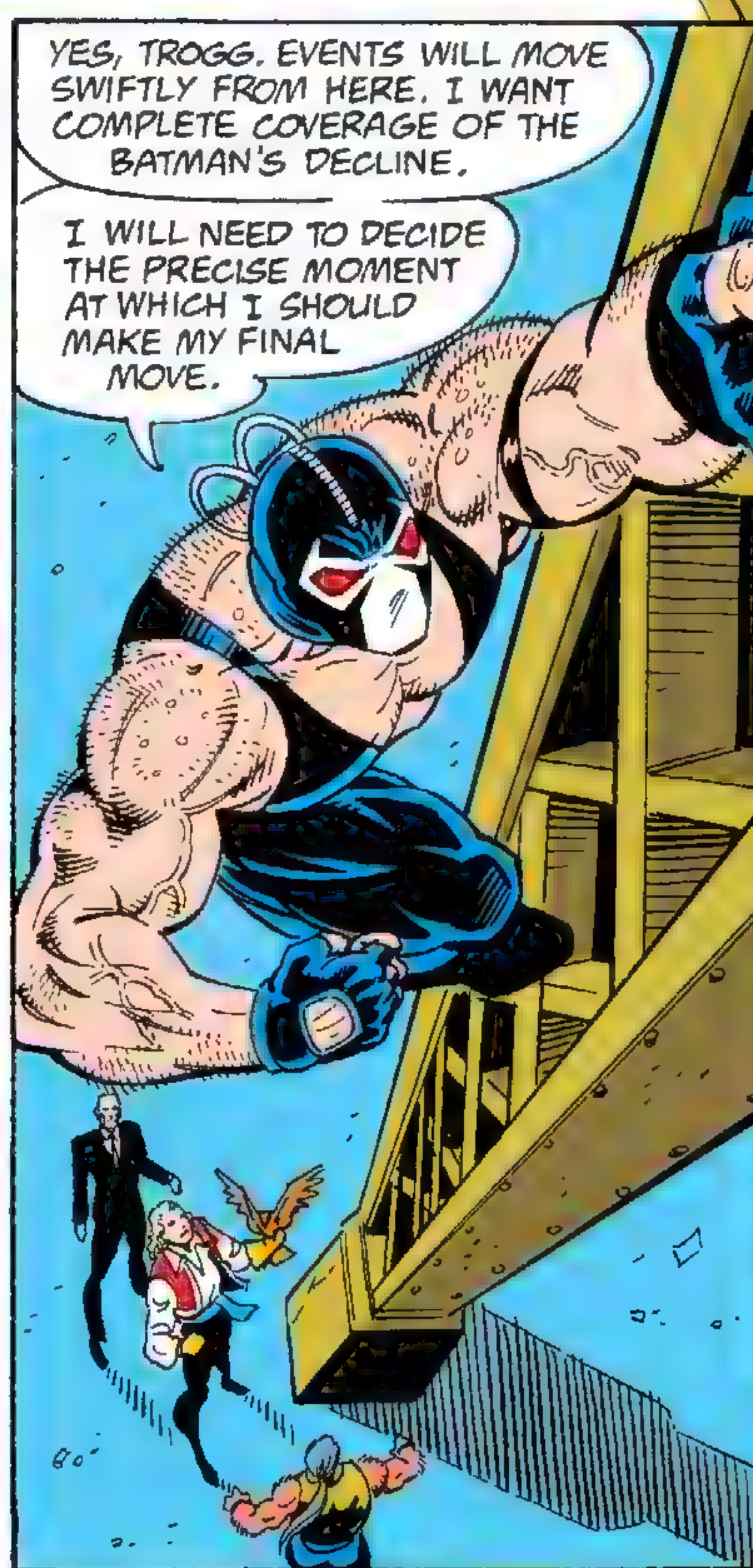
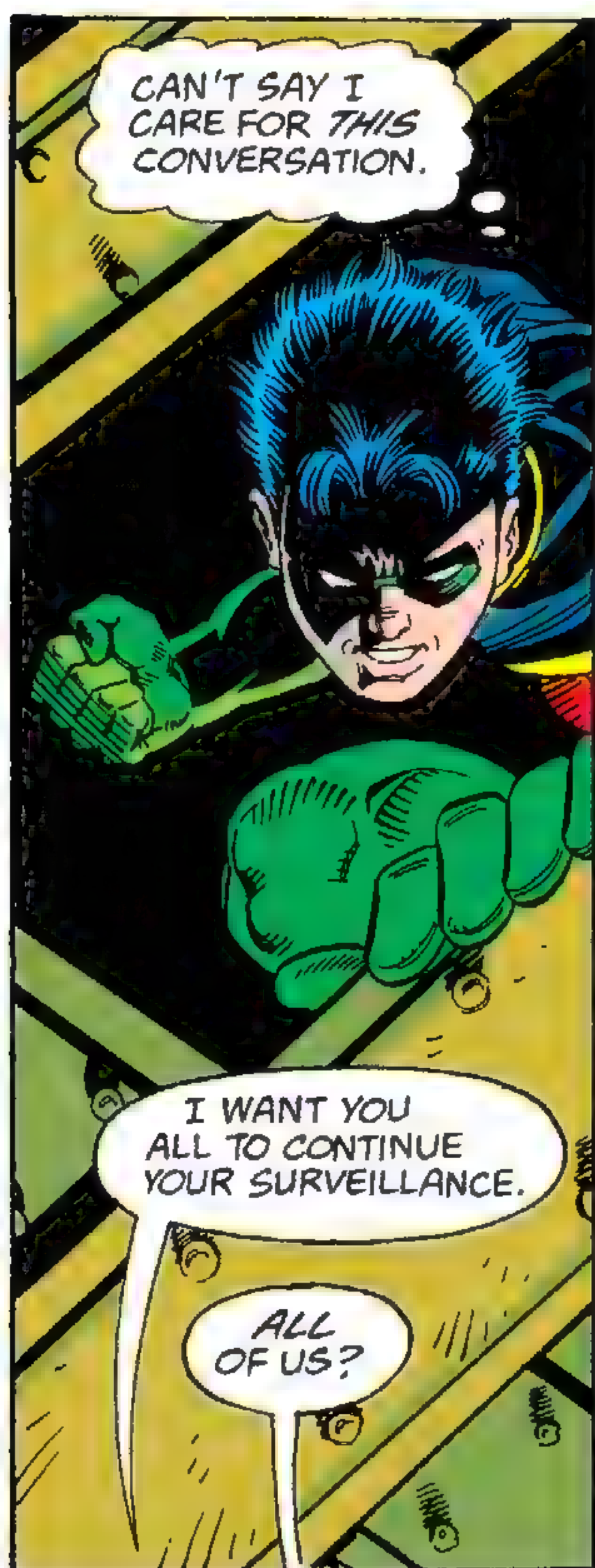
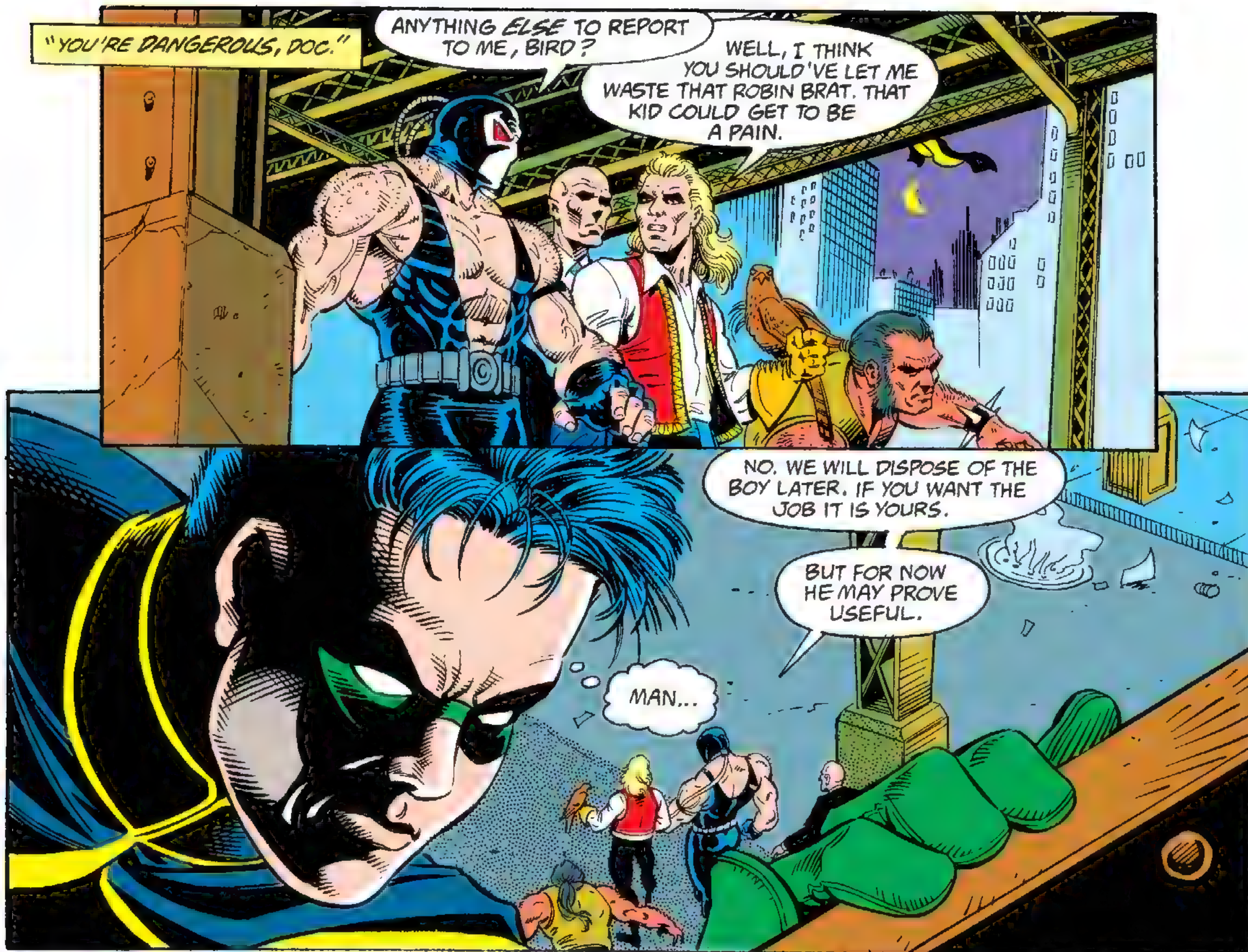


WE'VE GOT A BODY COUNT HEADING TOWARD THE TRIPLE DIGITS.

THAT'S A "LIFE-STYLE"?











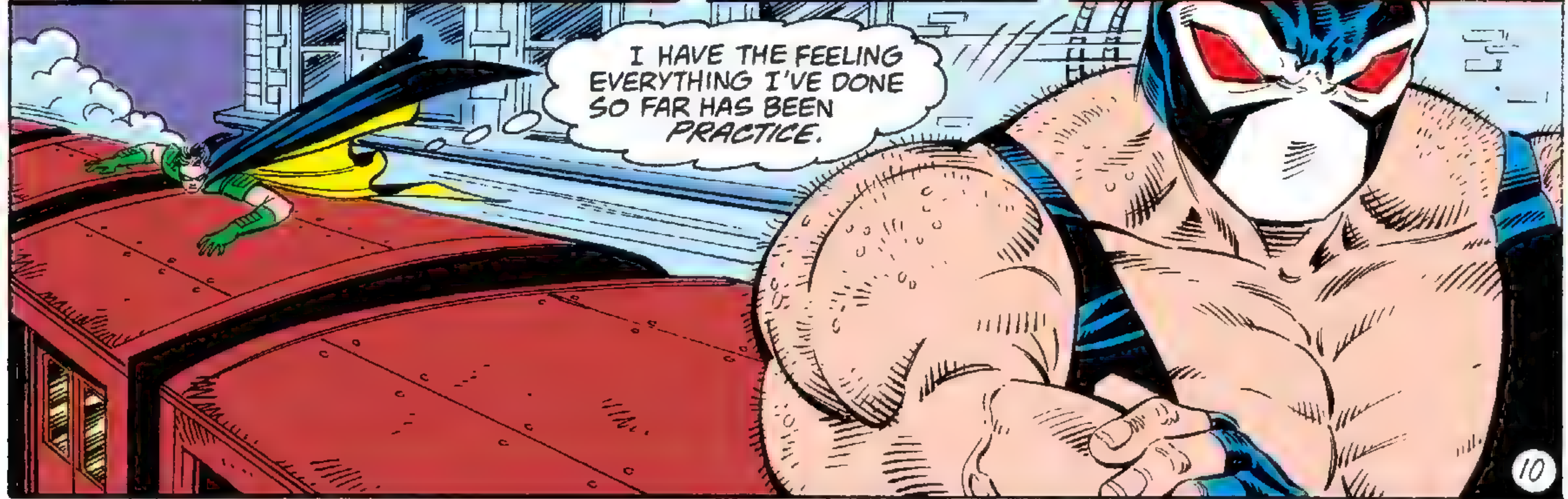
WISH I COULD  
GET BATMAN ON  
THE RADIO.

I'D BETTER  
KEEP UP WITH  
THIS GUY UNTIL  
I CAN.



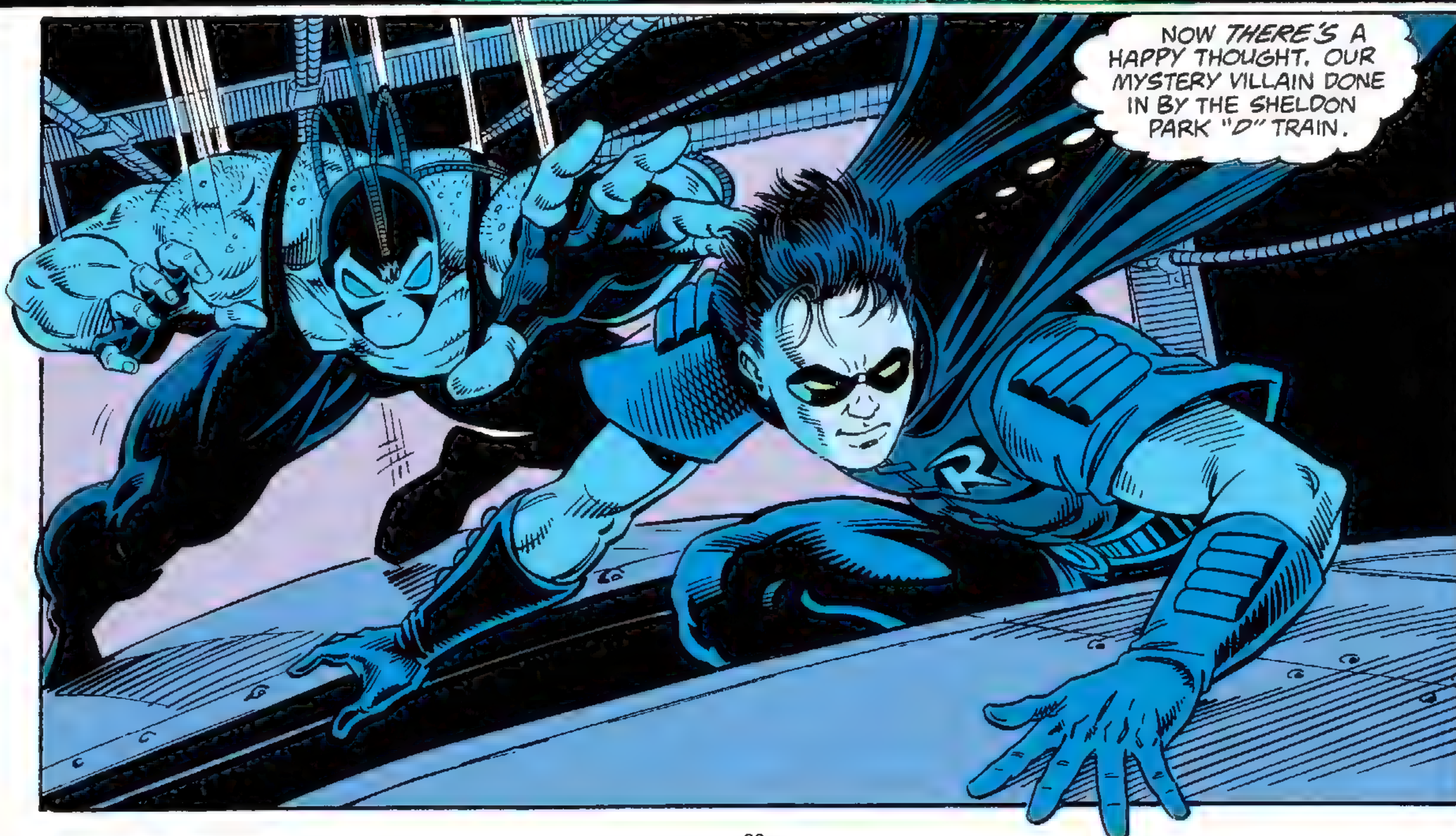
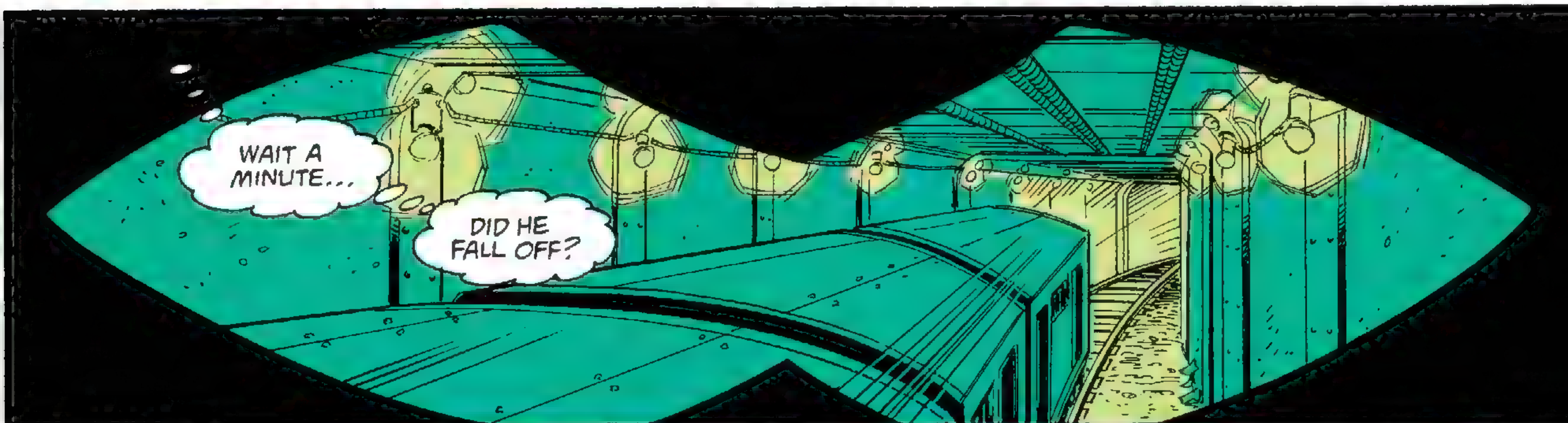
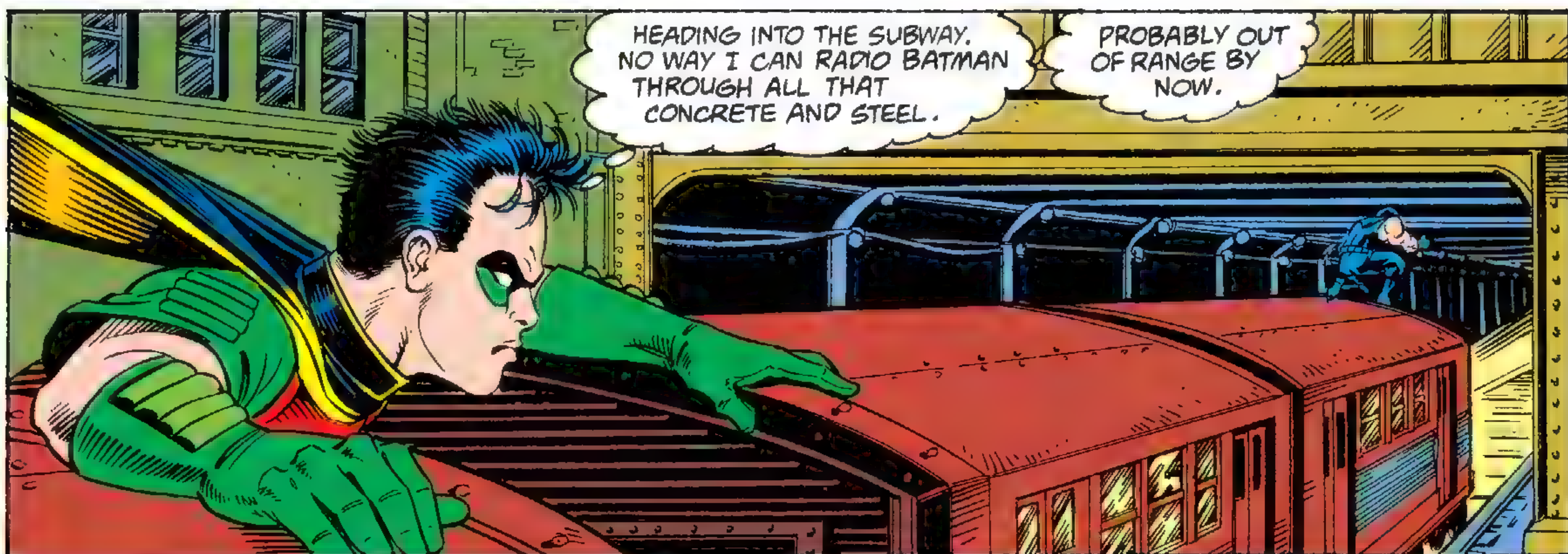
SOUNDS LIKE HIM  
AND HIS BUDDIES ARE  
THE ONES WHO BUSTED  
ARKHAM OPEN.

THIS IS DEFINITELY  
ONE TO KEEP AN  
EYE ON.

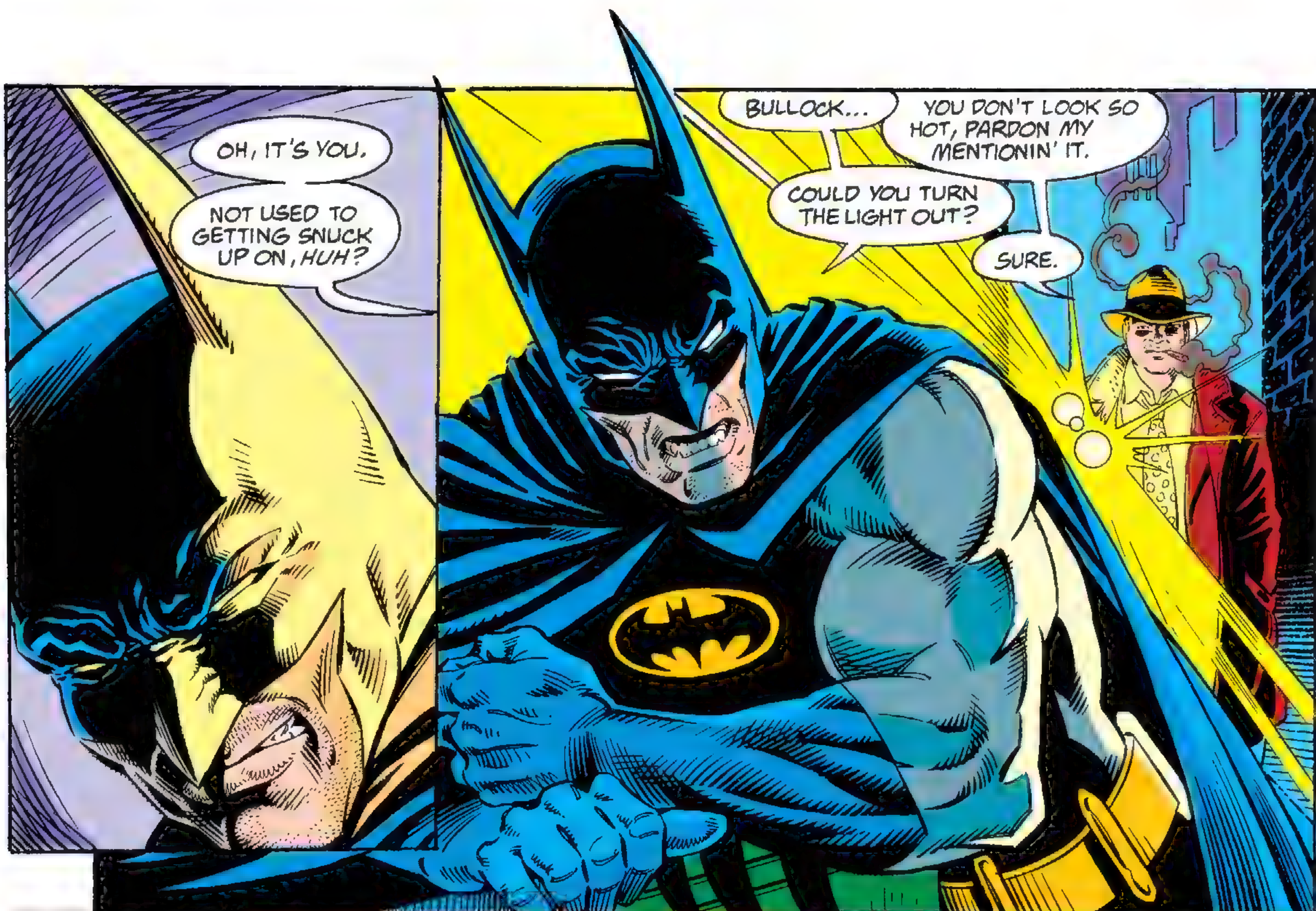


I HAVE THE FEELING  
EVERYTHING I'VE DONE  
SO FAR HAS BEEN  
PRACTICE.









OH, IT'S YOU.

NOT USED TO GETTING SNUCK UP ON, HUH?

BULLOCK...

YOU DON'T LOOK SO HOT, PARDON MY MENTIONIN' IT.

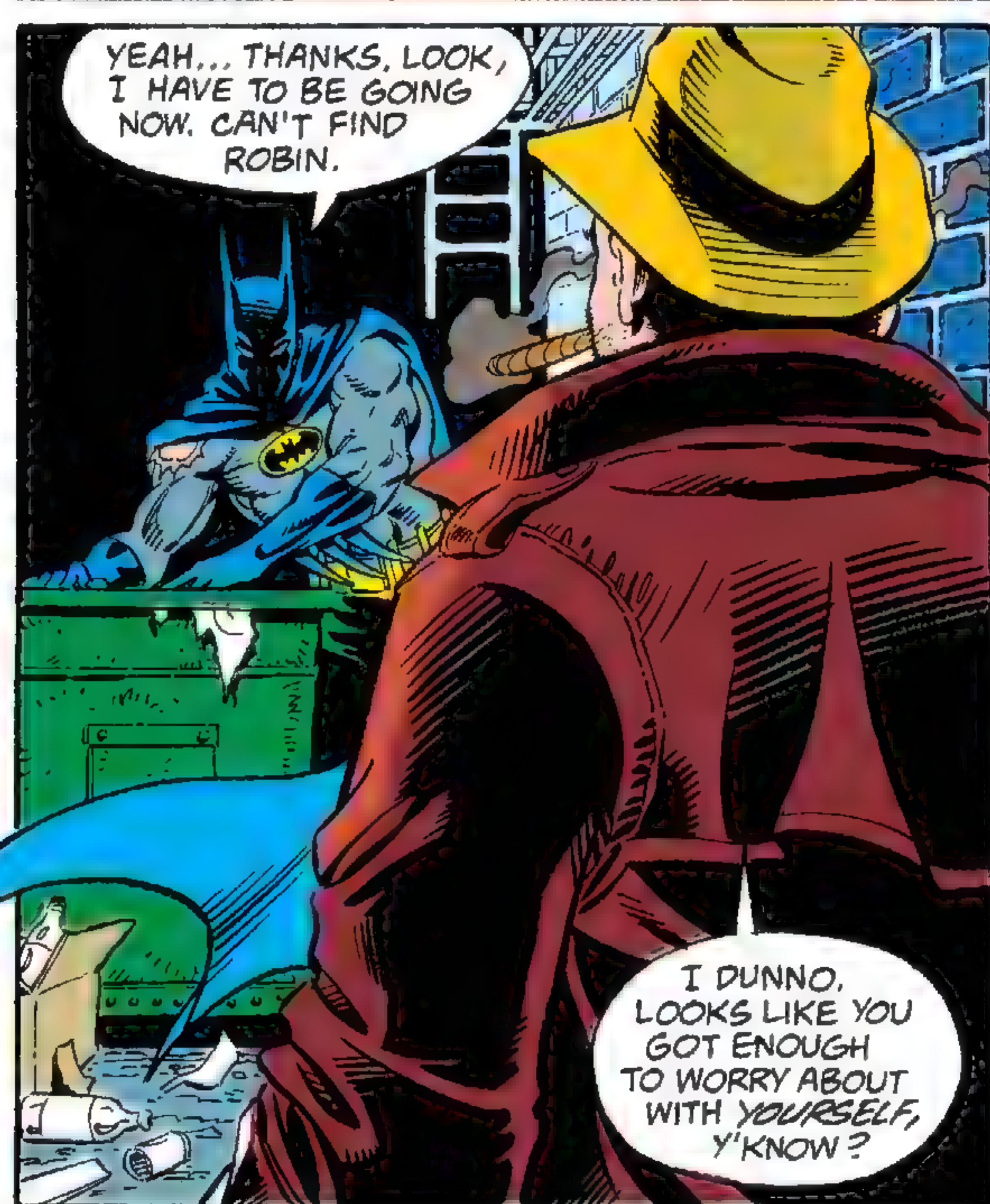
COULD YOU TURN THE LIGHT OUT?

SURE.



FORGOT THAT YOU LIKE THE *LOW* PROFILE. DON'T WORRY, IT'S JUST YOU AN' ME. THE BOYS ARE BUSY CLEANIN' UP AFTER THAT ZSASZ CREEP.

YOU MAY LOOK LIKE A STIFF WIND WOULD BLOW YOU OVER BUT YOU SURE KICKED THAT PSYCHO'S BUTT.



YEAH... THANKS, LOOK, I HAVE TO BE GOING NOW. CAN'T FIND ROBIN.

I DUNNO. LOOKS LIKE YOU GOT ENOUGH TO WORRY ABOUT WITH YOURSELF, Y'KNOW?



YOU'D BE BETTER OFF WITH EIGHT HOURS OF SACKTIME.

WHEREVER THE KID IS, I'M SURE HE CAN TAKE CARE OF HIMSELF.



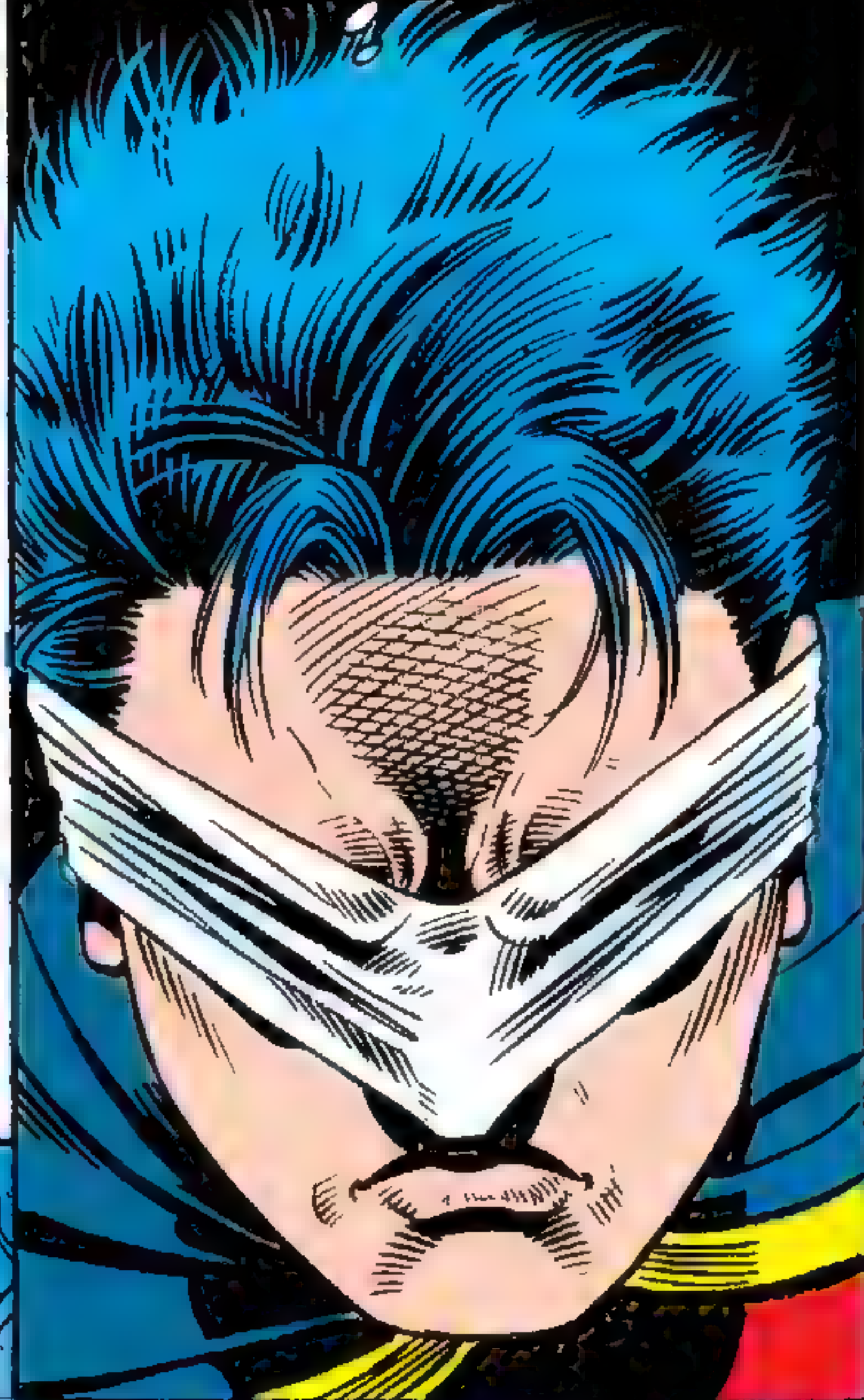
"WHICH IS BETTER  
ODDS THAN I'D  
GIVE YOU RIGHT  
NOW."

DON'T  
LIKE  
THIS.

CAN'T SEE  
WHERE I AM.

CAN HEAR WATER  
RUSHING. LOTS  
OF WATER.

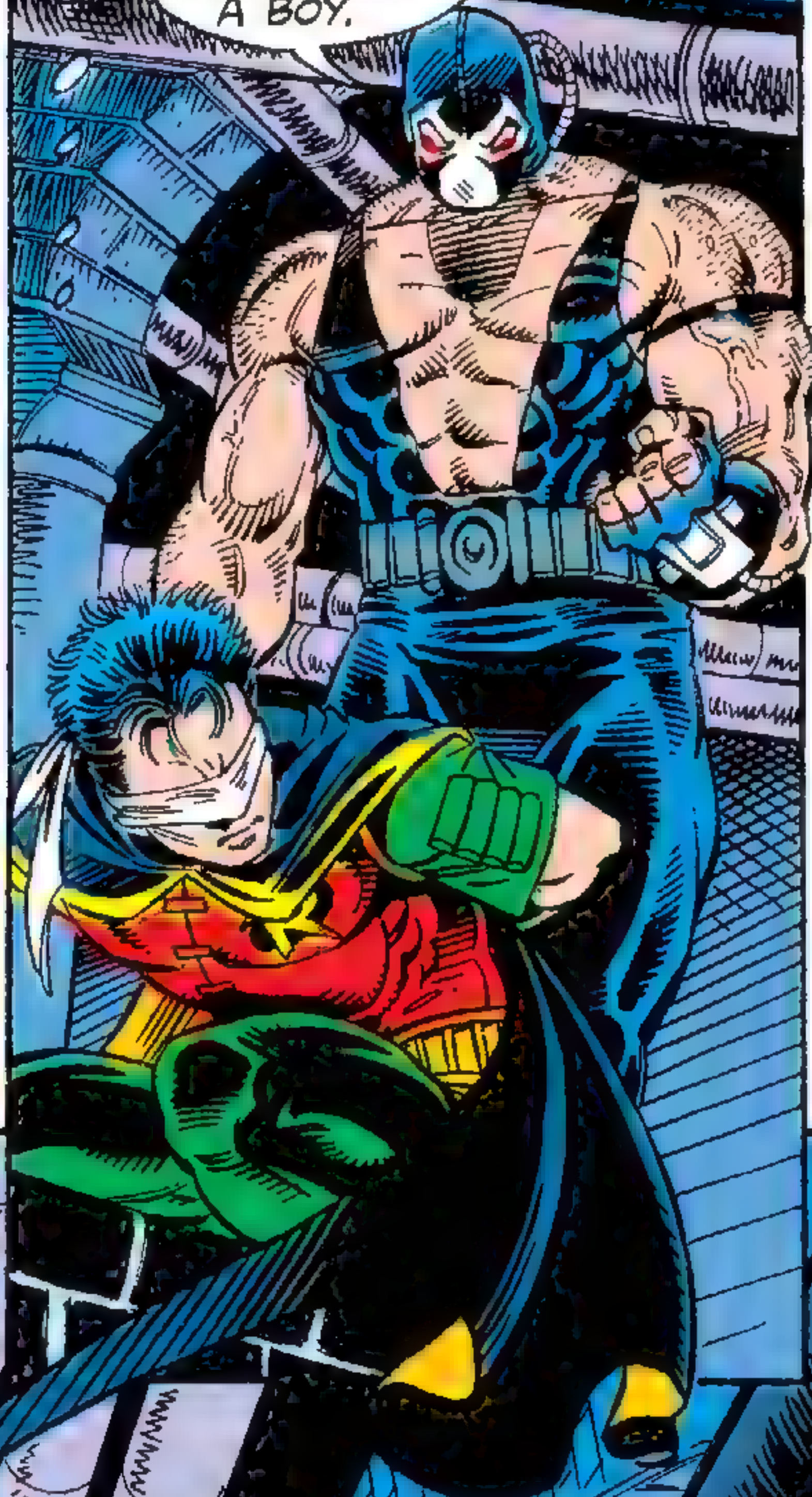
ECHOES. I'M IN A  
LARGE, ENCLOSED  
SPACE.



BREATHING...  
WHO---

I AM VERY  
CURIOUS ABOUT  
YOU. YOU AID THE  
BATMAN IN HIS  
FIGHT AGAINST  
CRIME, EH?

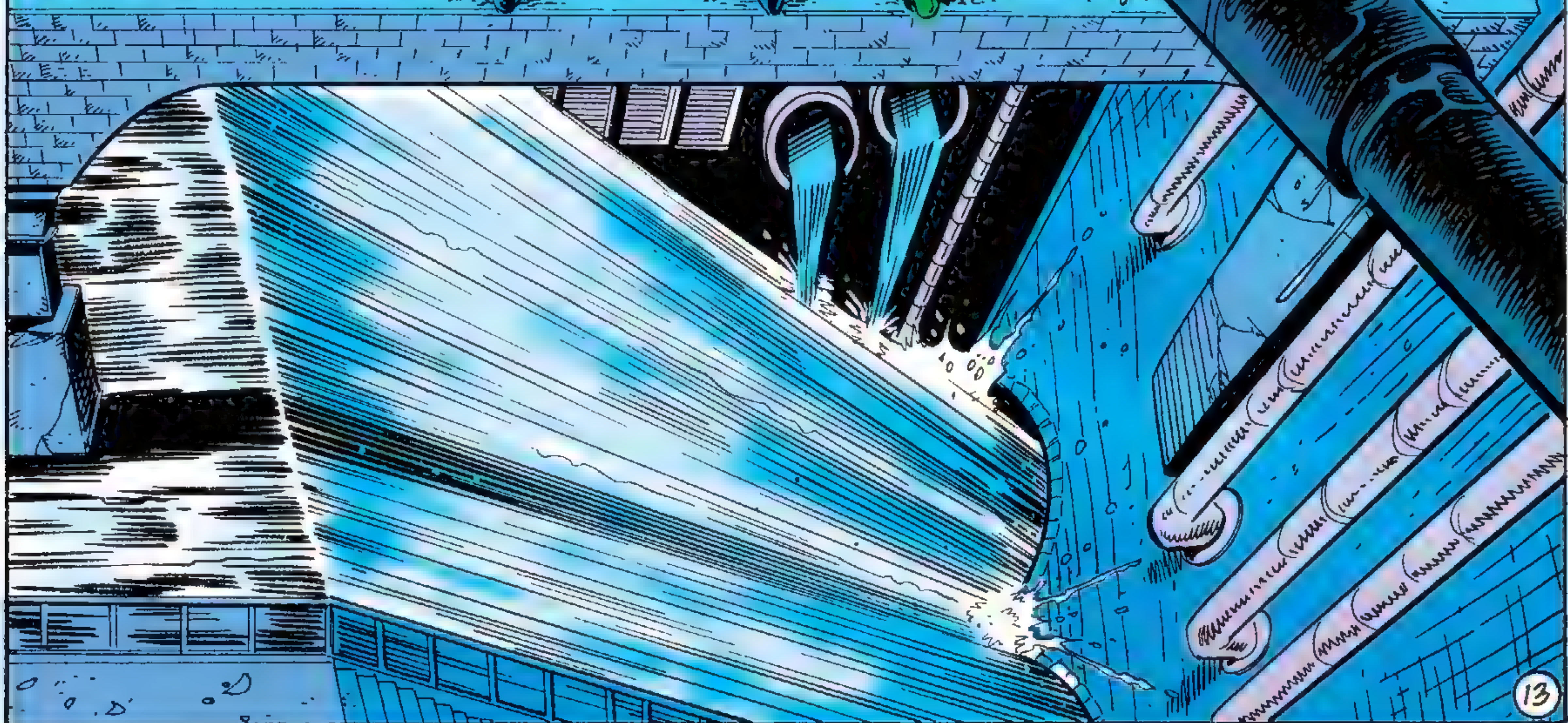
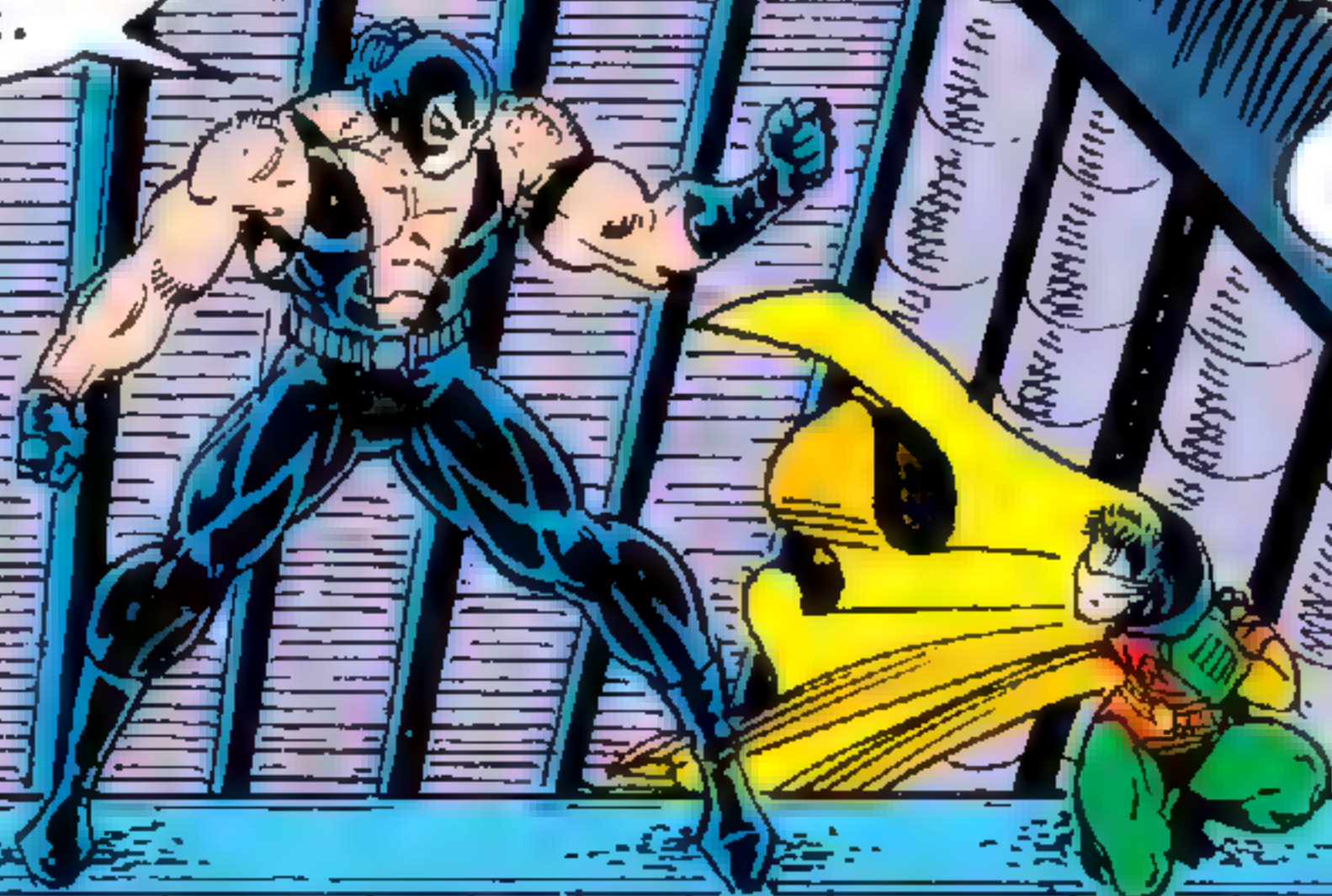
AND YET  
YOU ARE JUST  
A BOY.



I AM JUST BEGINNING  
TO UNDERSTAND YOUR  
MENTOR. BUT YOU ARE  
A WILD CARD TO ME.

WHERE HAVE  
I HEARD THAT  
BEFORE?

YOUR NAME IS  
BANE, ISN'T IT?







AND THE OTHER ONE? THE ONE WHO *PRETENDED* TO BE THE BATMAN?

JUST ANOTHER ONE OF OUR MERRY MEN.

YOU KNOW I WENT TO THE TROUBLE OF BLINDFOLDING YOU.

IT WOULD HAVE BEEN MUCH EASIER TO SIMPLY *BLIND* YOU.

BUT I *APPRECIATE* YOUTHFUL DEFIANCE. YOU STRUGGLE AGAINST YOUR FEAR. I ADMIRE THAT.

REALLY? MAYBE I'LL CALL YOU IF I EVER NEED A JOB REFERENCE.

THIS GUY IS A WORLD-CLASS SICKY. I'VE GOT TO GET AWAY FROM HIM AND FREE MY HANDS.

NO ROOM TO MOVE. WHERE *ARE* WE?

YOU MAY BE USEFUL TO ME YET. I IMAGINE THAT THE BATMAN WOULD COME TO HELP YOU IF HE KNEW YOU WERE IN DANGER.

FORGET IT, BANE.

I'M NO HOSTAGE. BATMAN'S NOT GOING TO FALL INTO ANY TRAPS FOR MY SAKE.

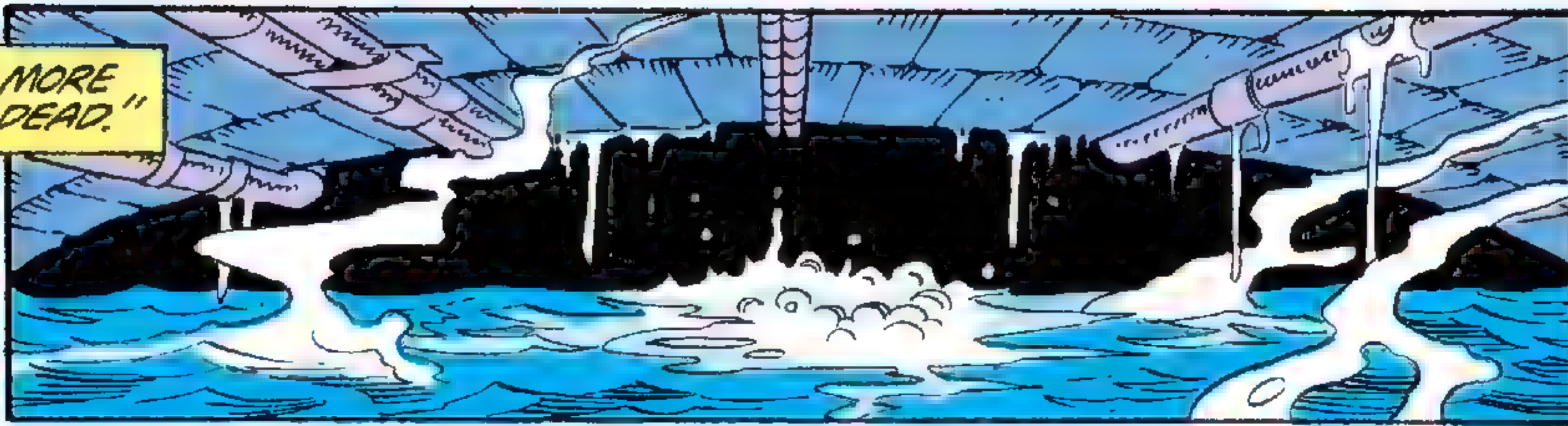
SUCH BRAVE WORDS. SUCH CAMARADERIE. BUT YOU MAY BE RIGHT.



"YOU MAY BE MORE  
USE TO ME DEAD."

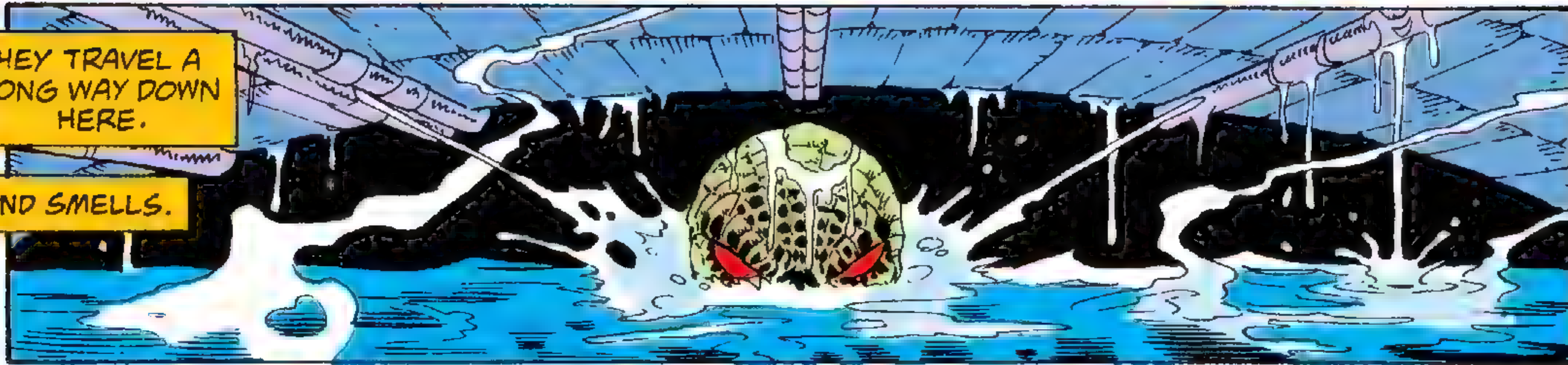
SOUNDS.

VOICES.



THEY TRAVEL A  
LONG WAY DOWN  
HERE.

AND SMELLS.



A RIOT OF ODORS  
AND STENCHES.

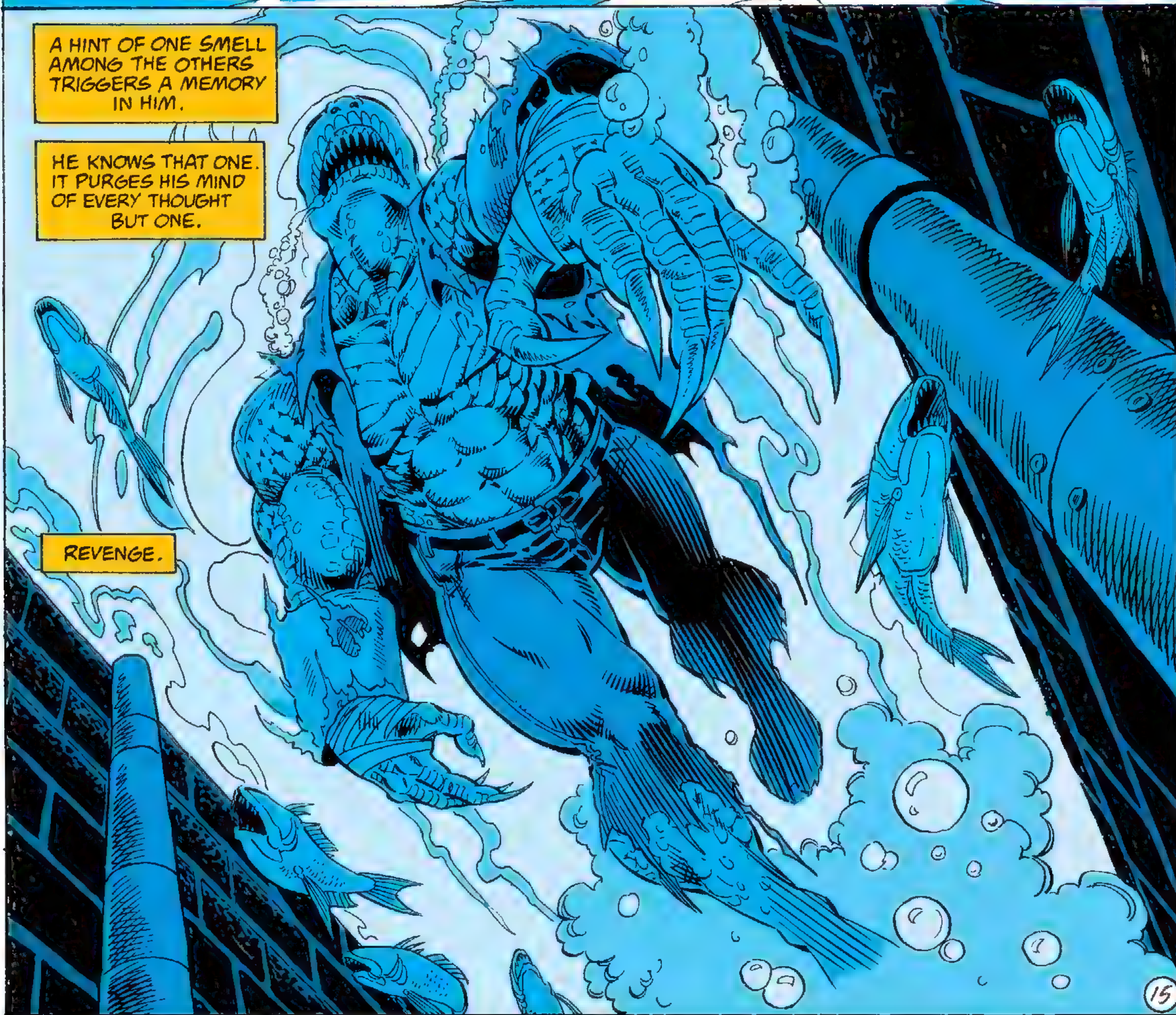
A UNIVERSE OF  
FOULNESS AND  
STINKS AND  
FUMES.



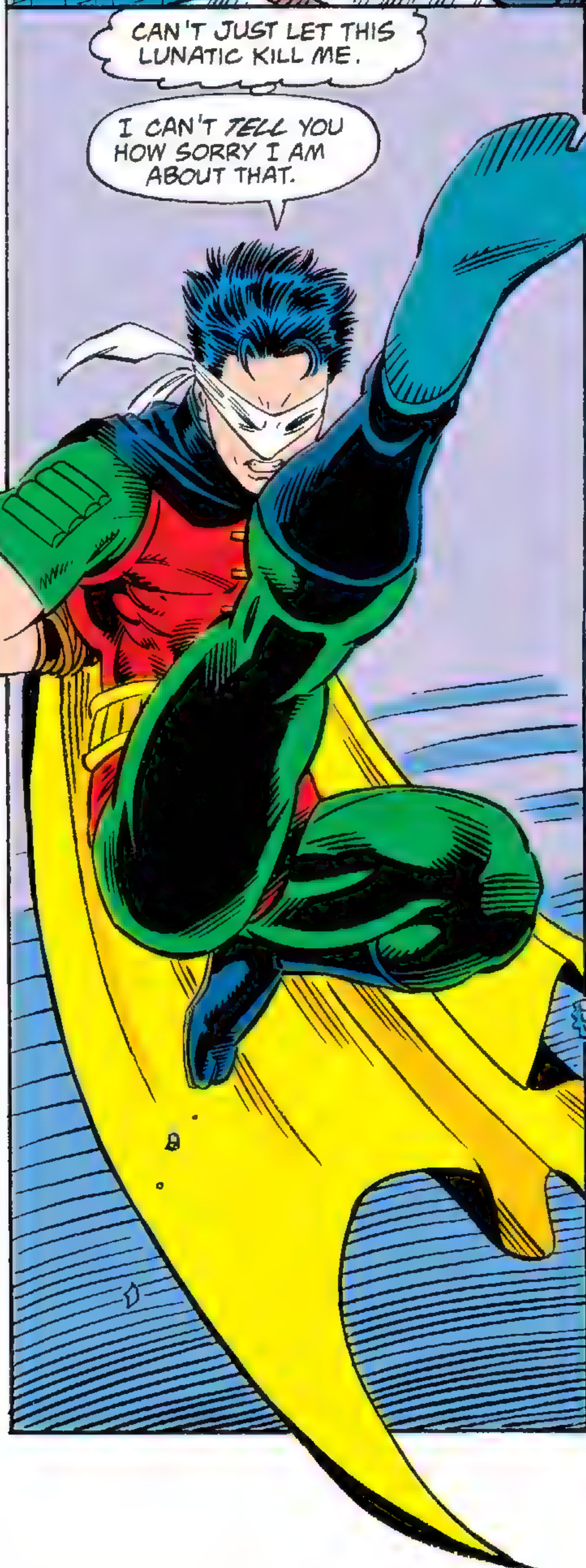
A HINT OF ONE SMELL  
AMONG THE OTHERS  
TRIGGERS A MEMORY  
IN HIM.

HE KNOWS THAT ONE.  
IT PURGES HIS MIND  
OF EVERY THOUGHT  
BUT ONE.

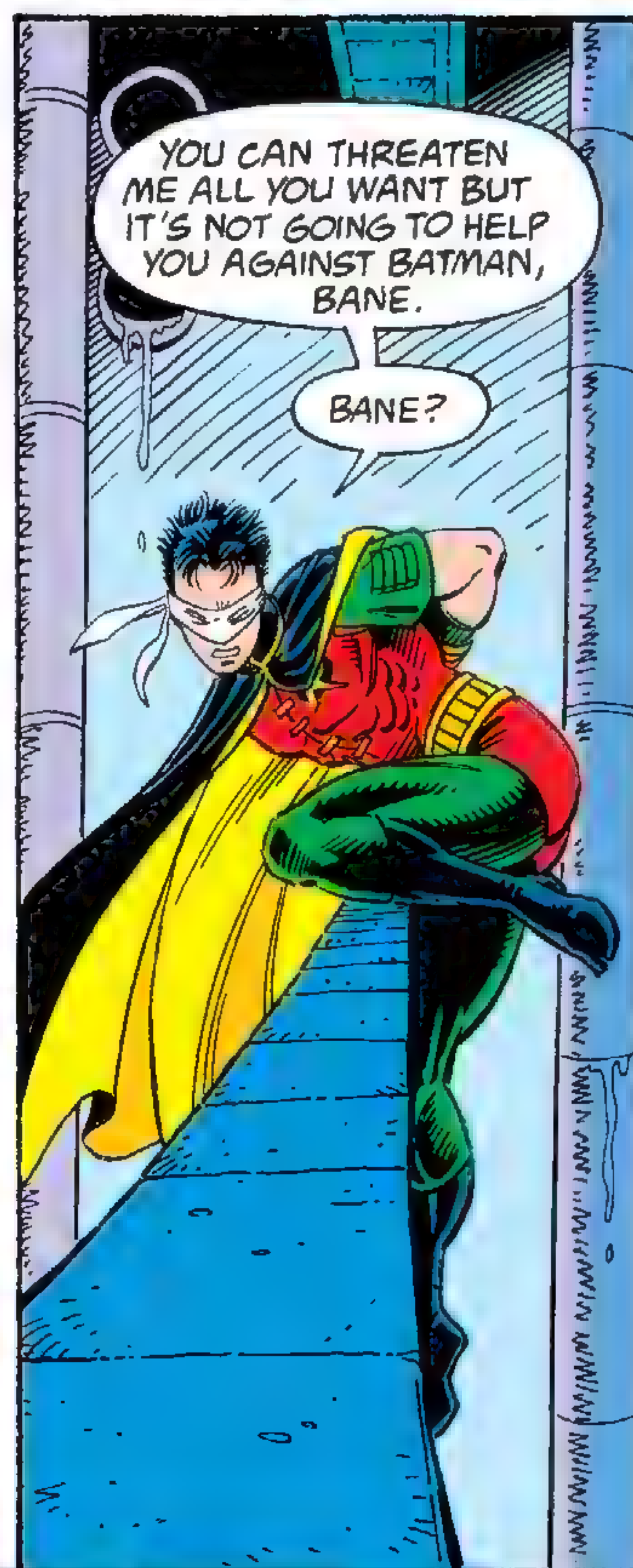
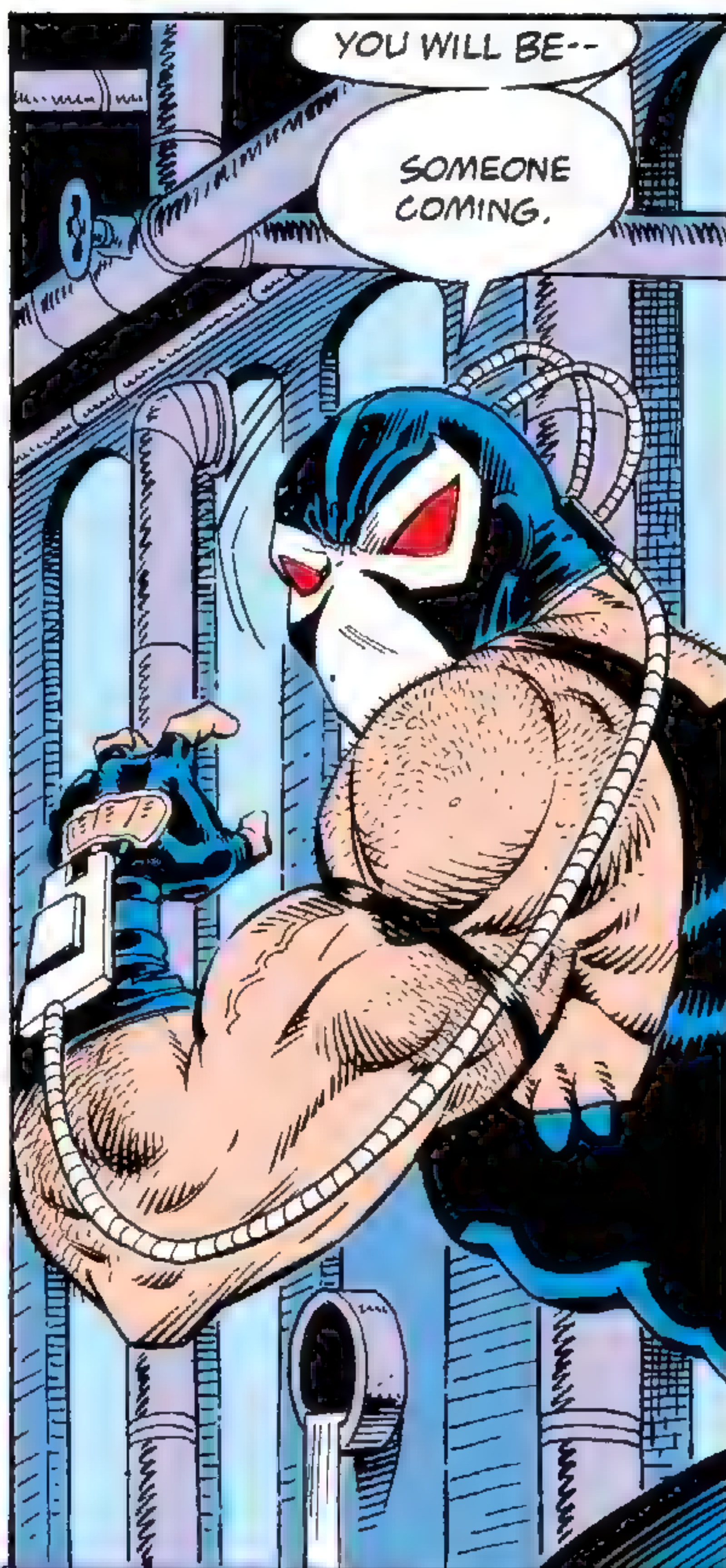
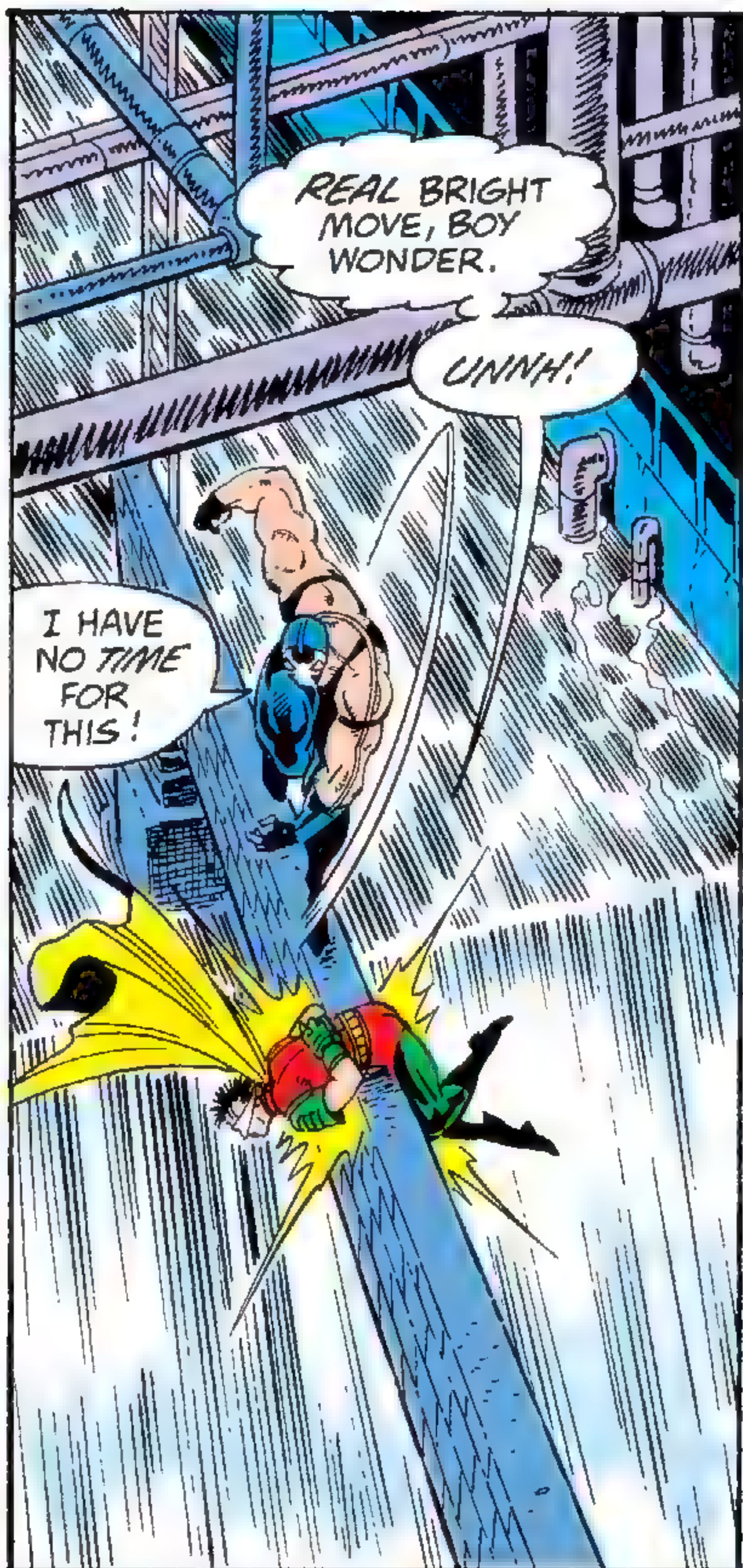
REVENGE.



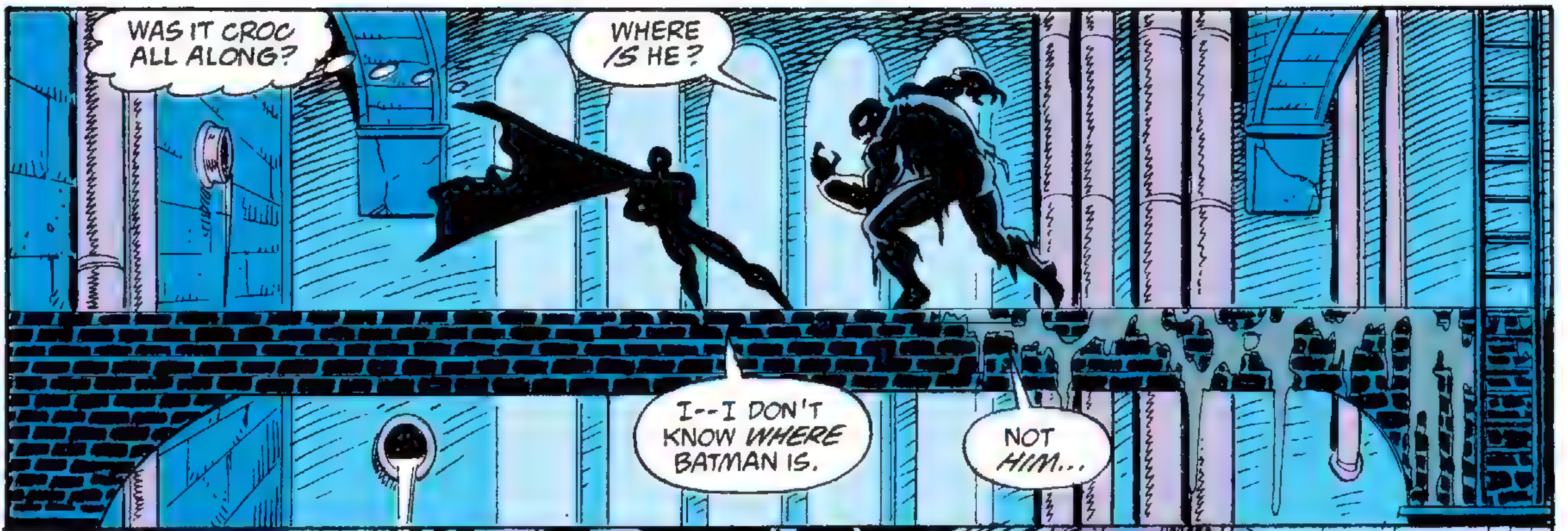




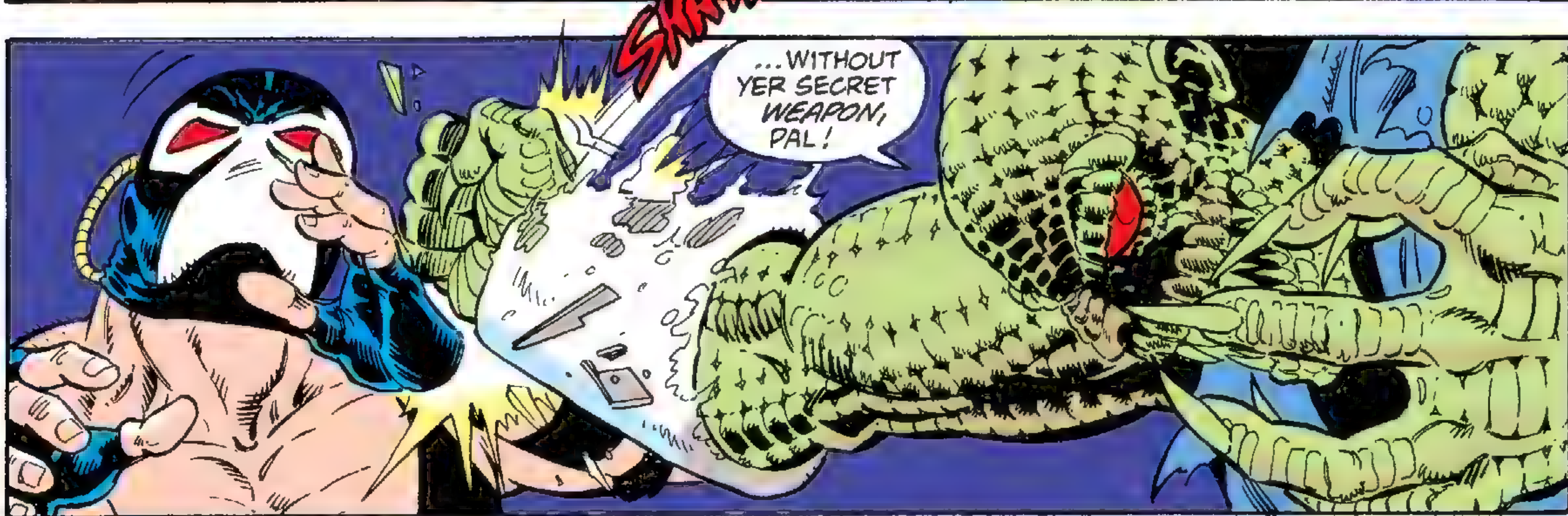
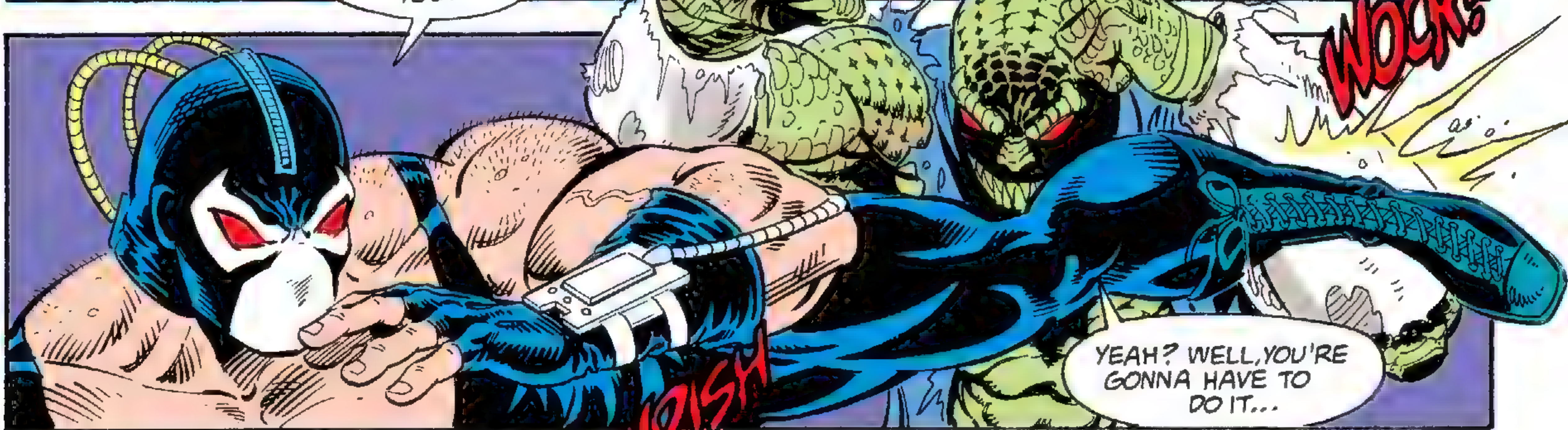
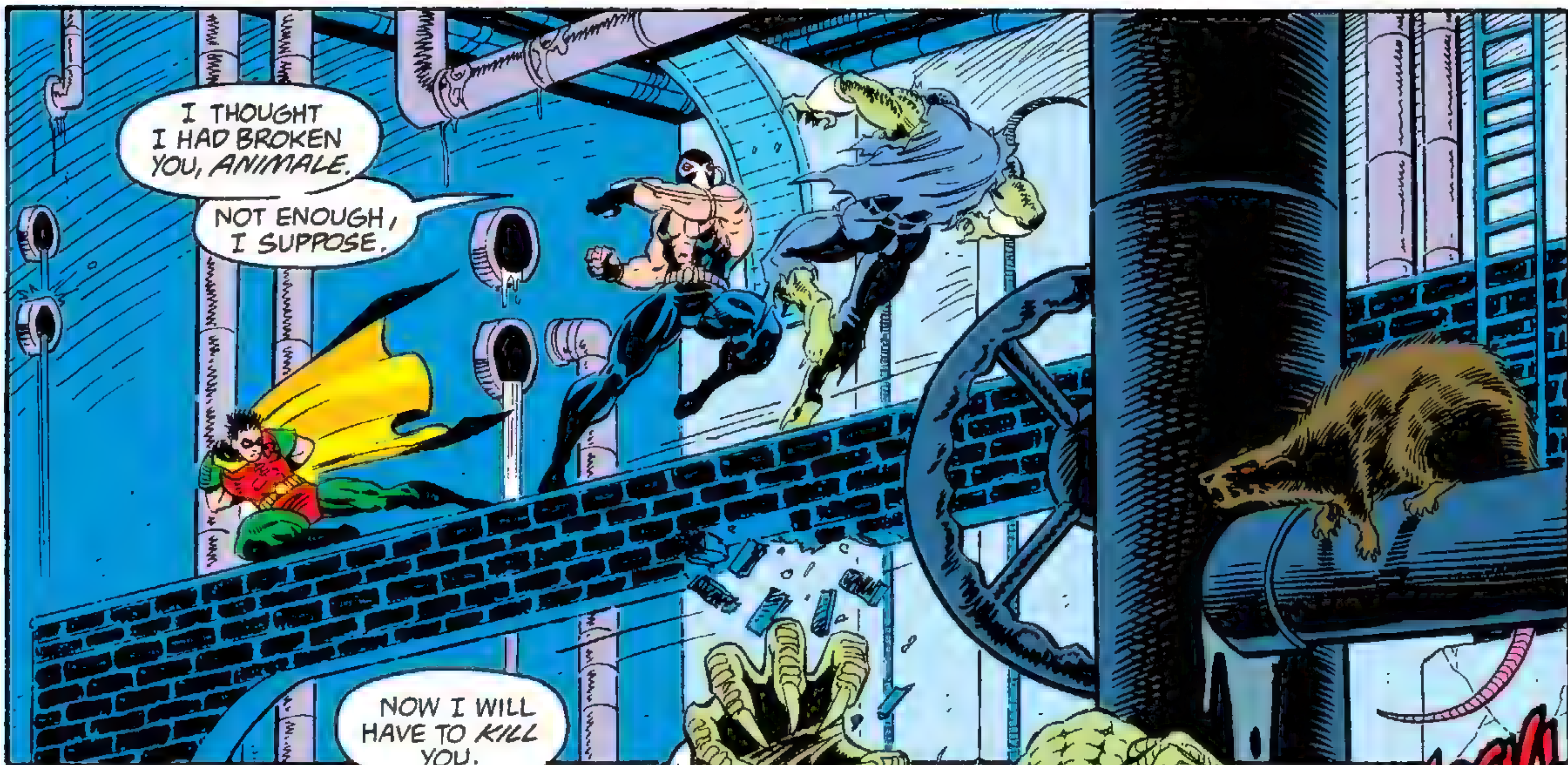




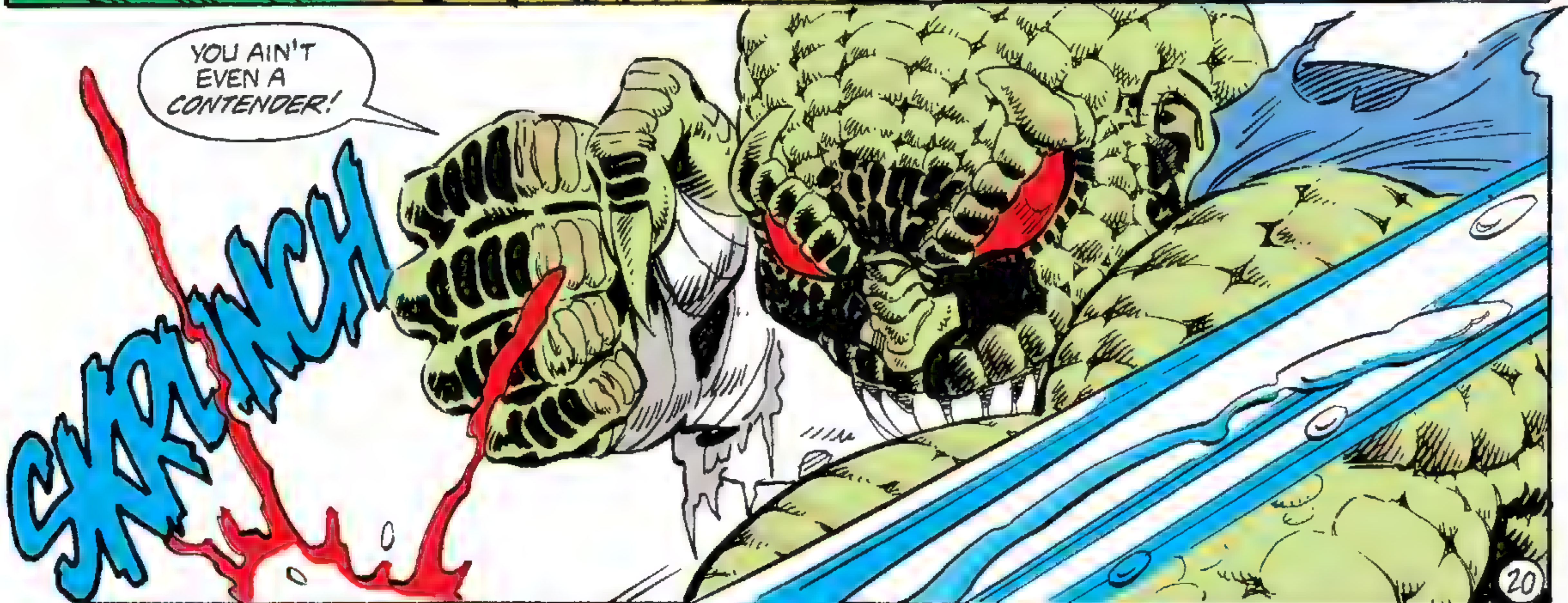
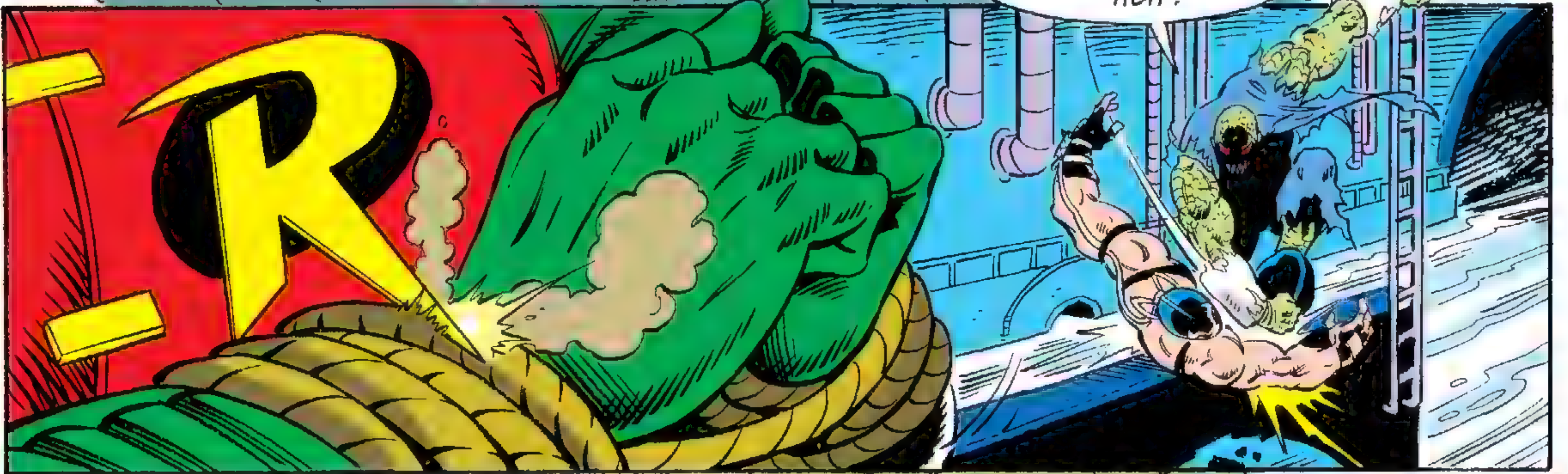
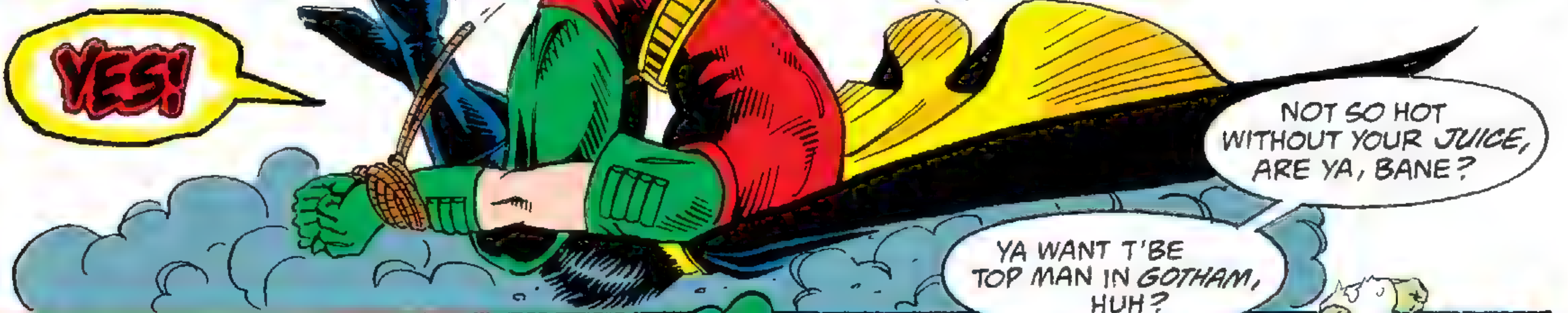
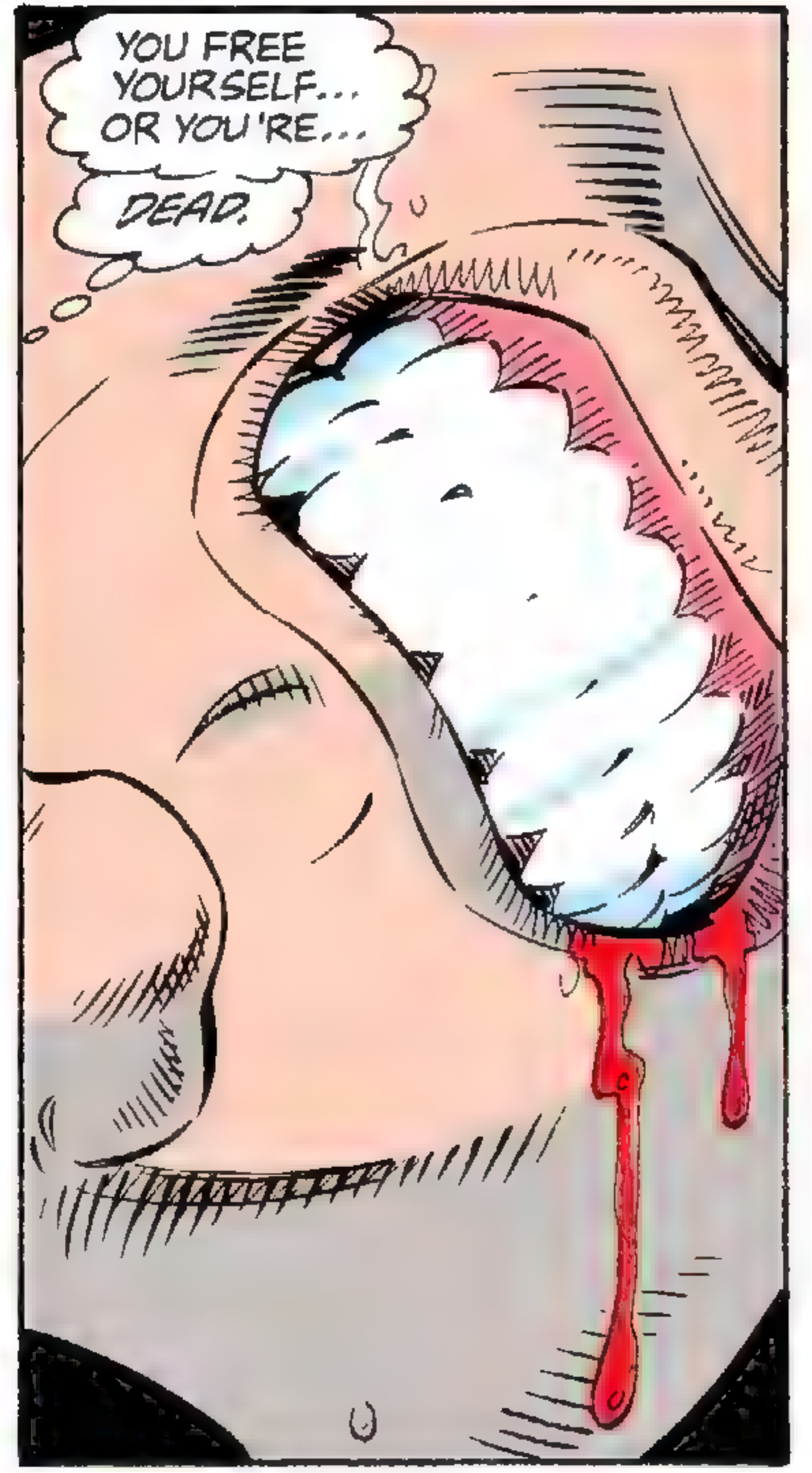
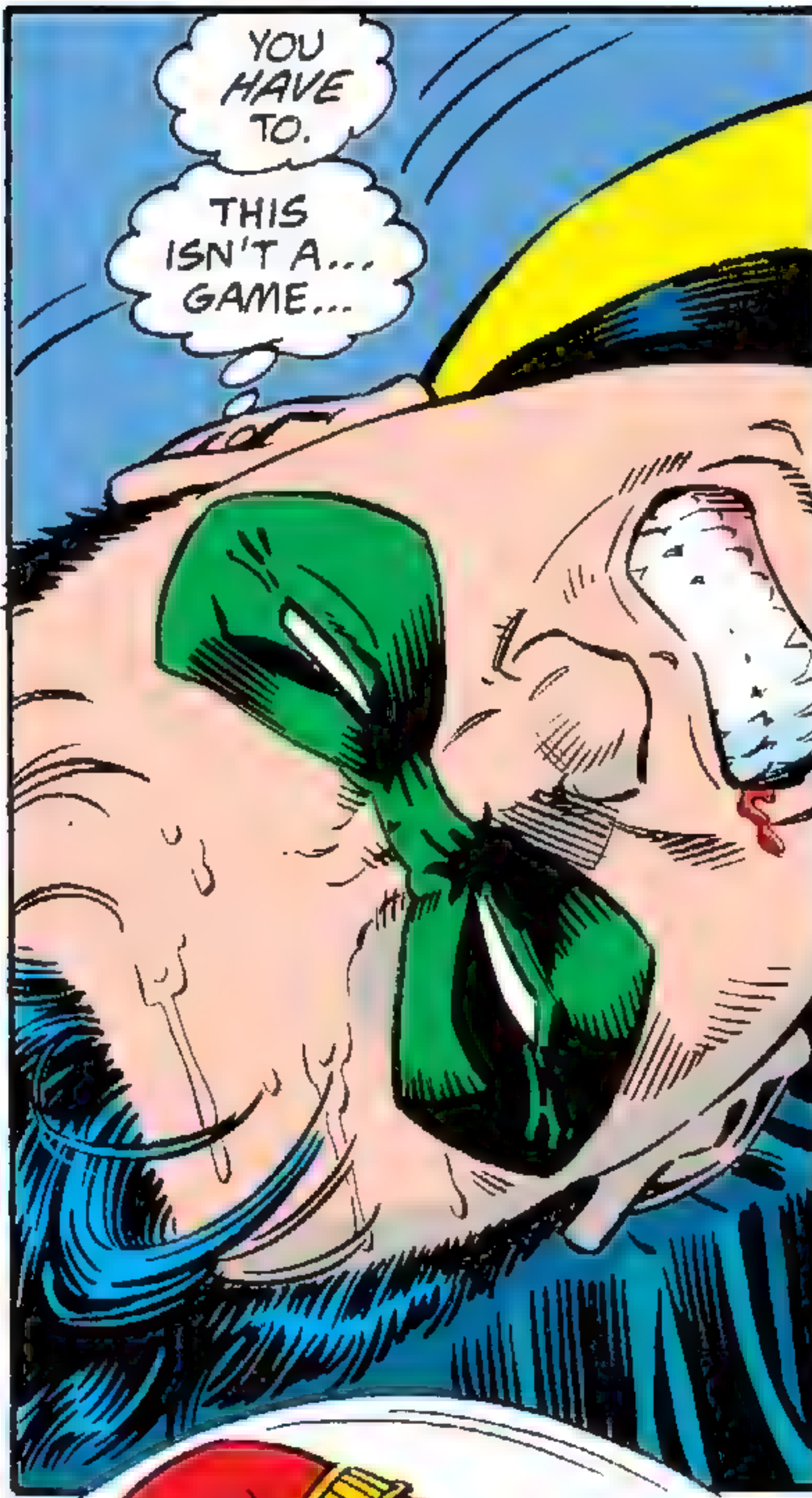




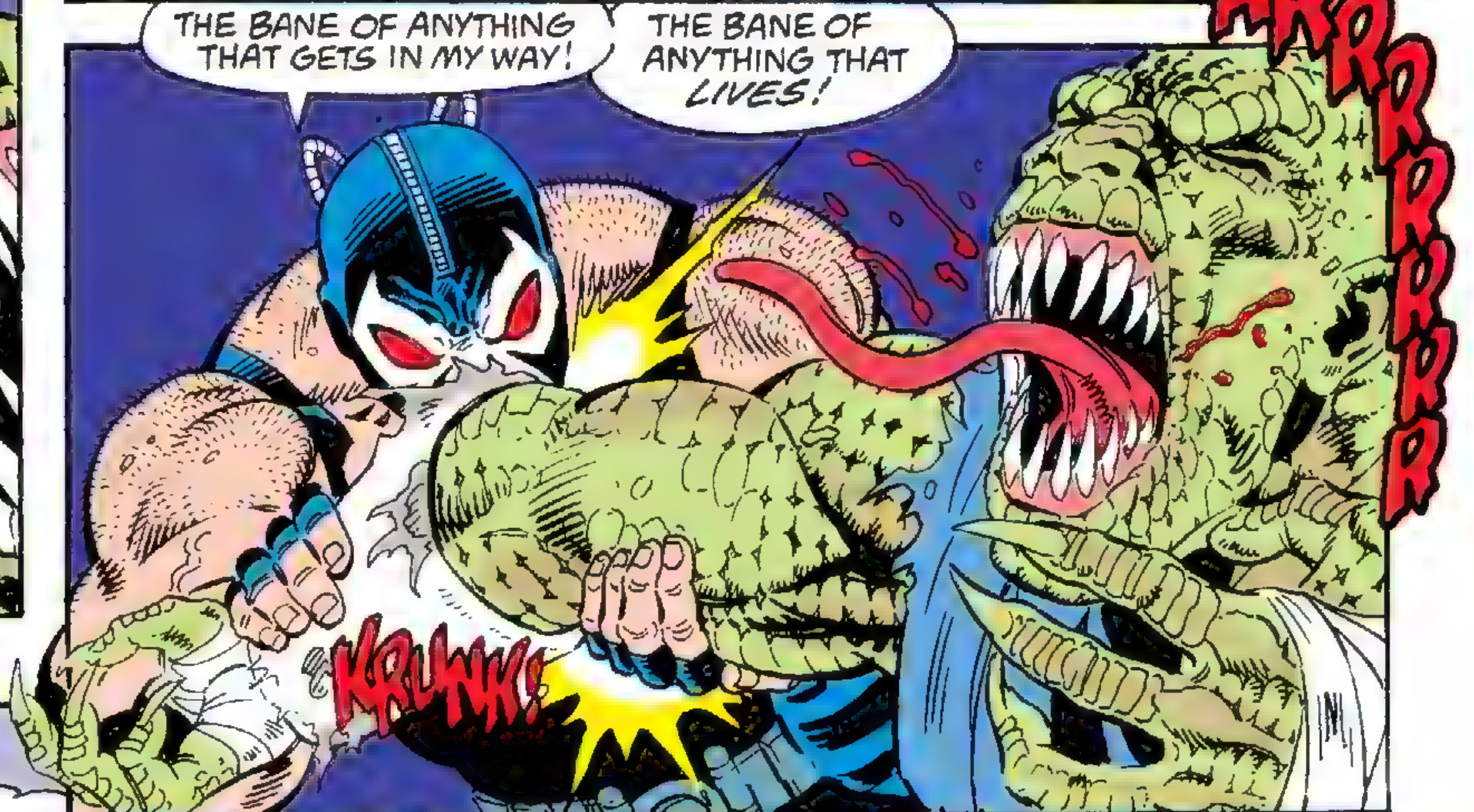
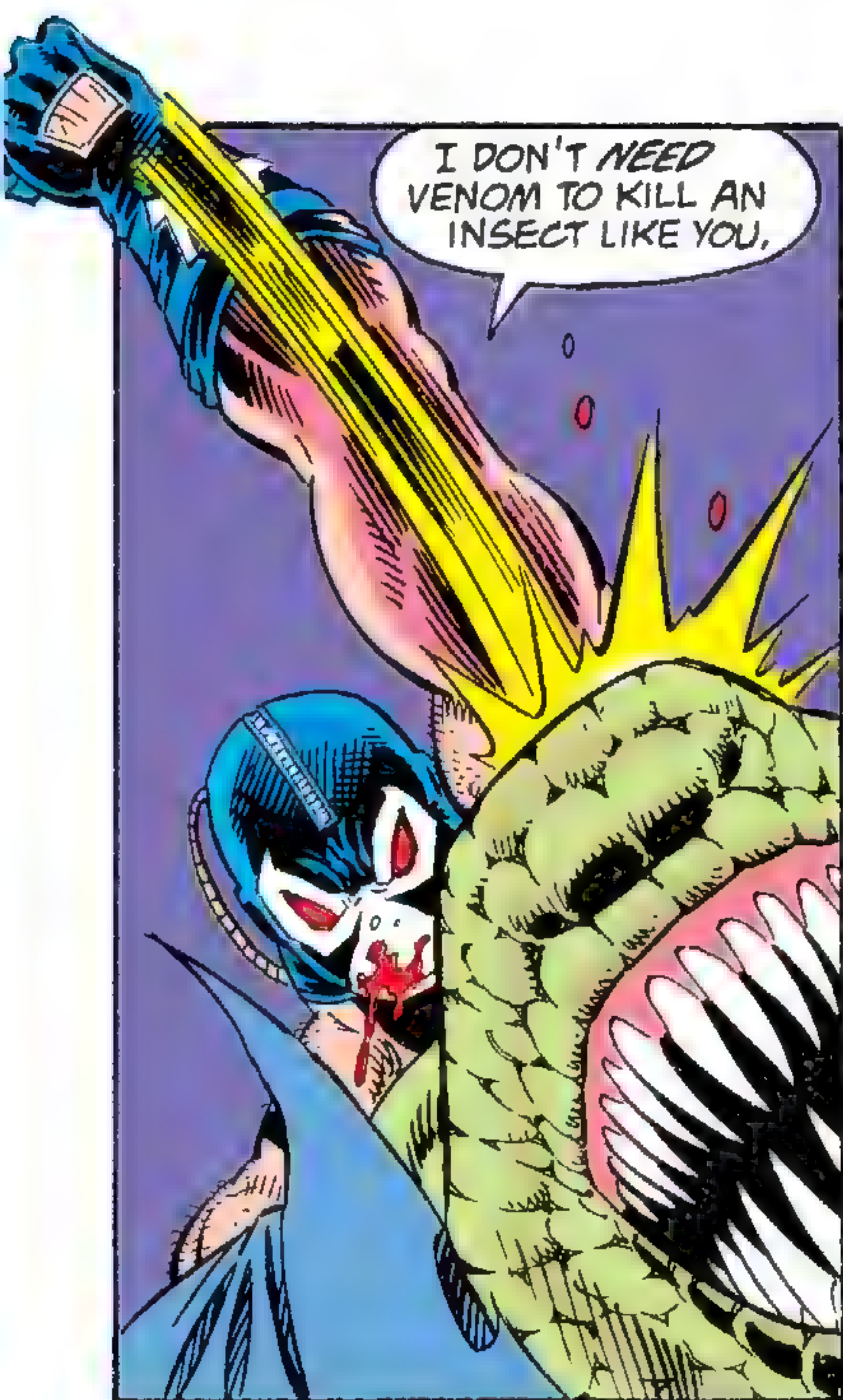




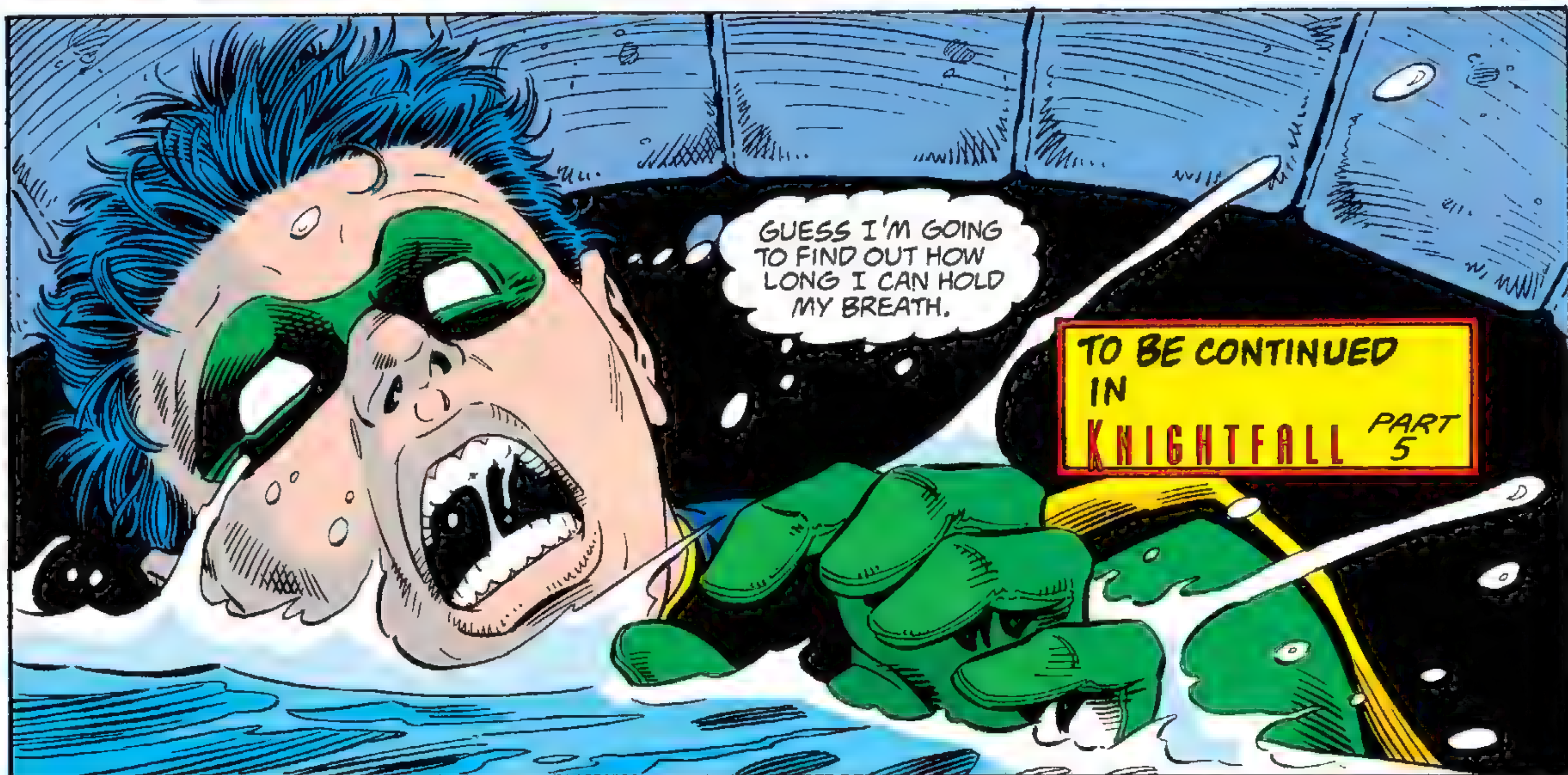
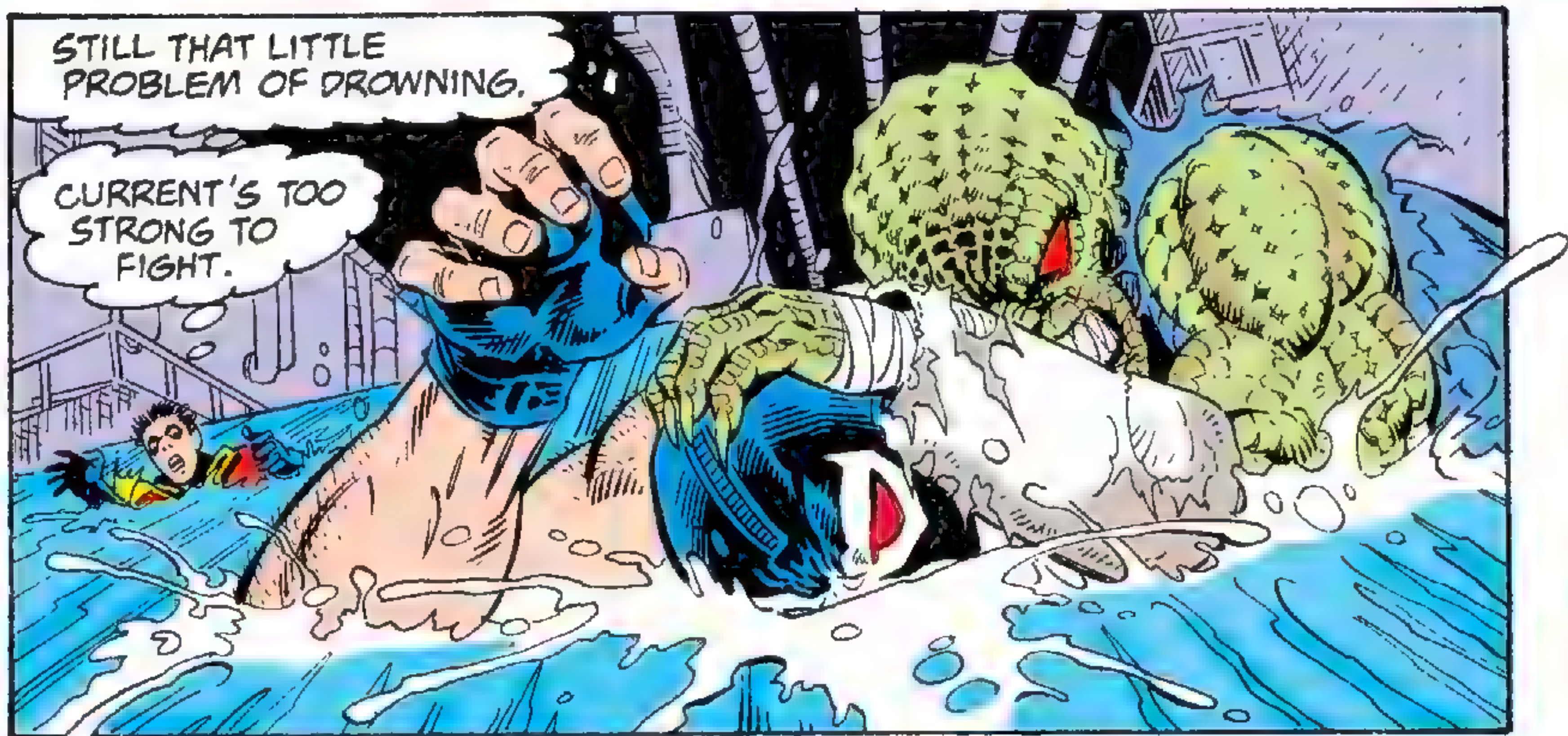
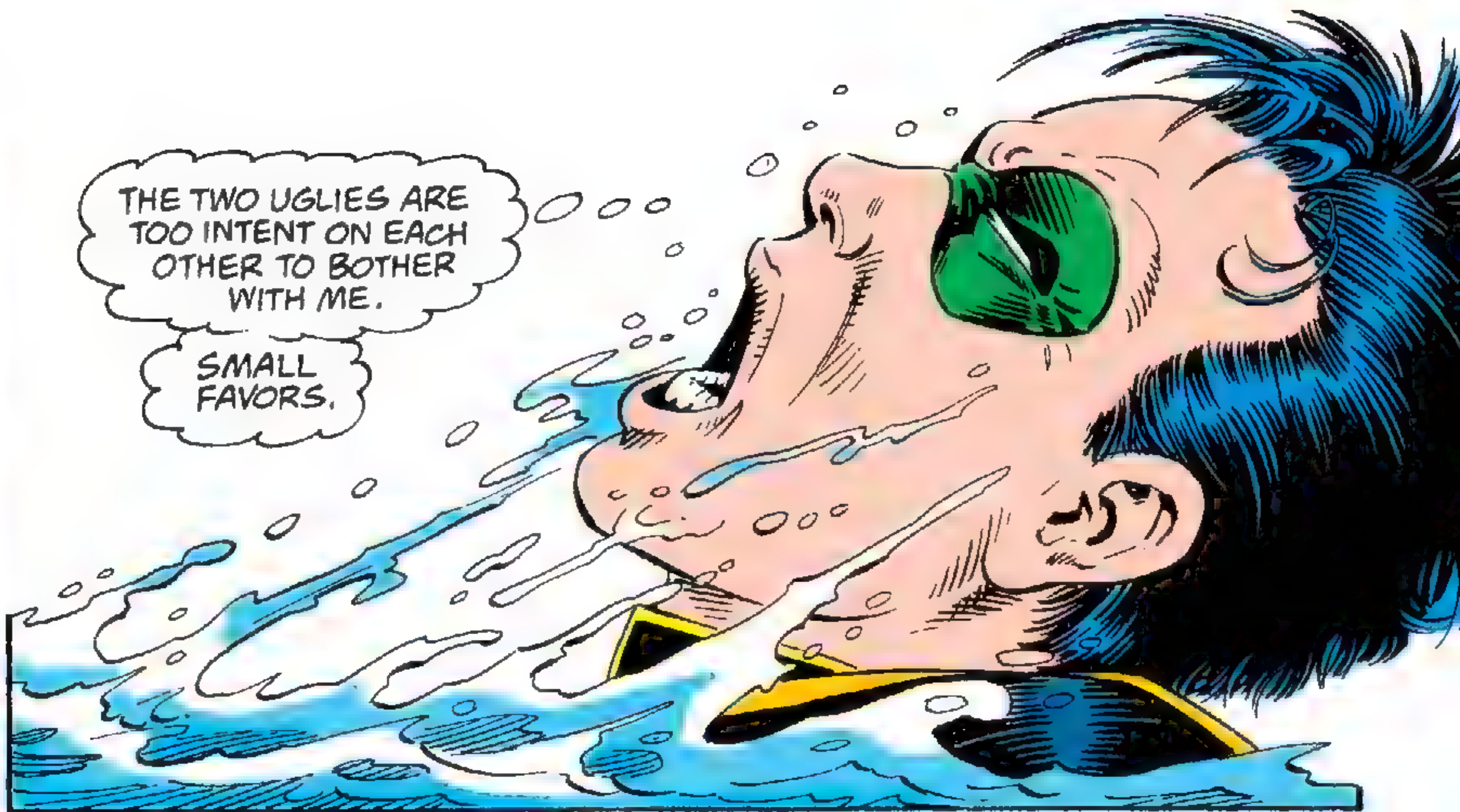
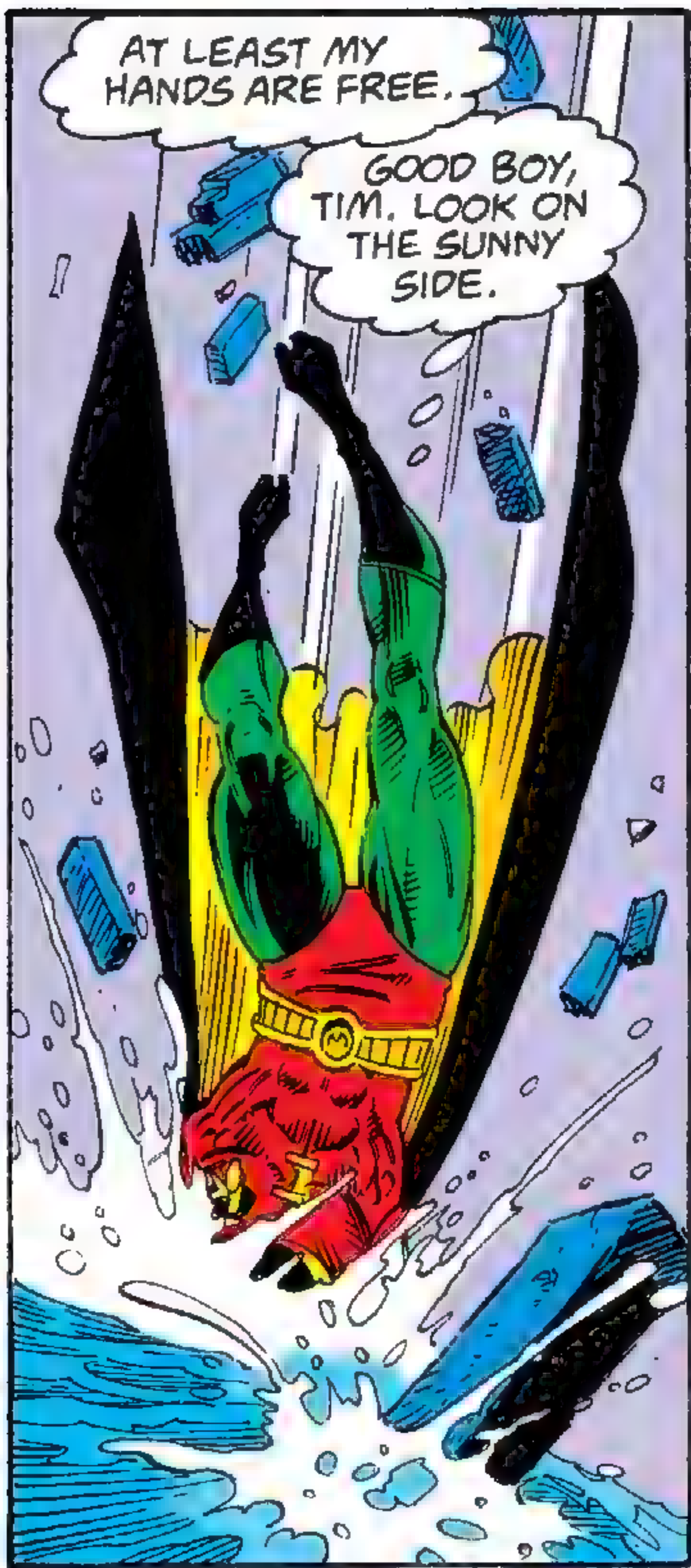














KNIGHTFALL



494  
EARLY  
JUNE 93



APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE  
AUTHORITY

# BATMAN







Cover art by  
**KELLEY JONES**



**T**HE GOTHAM  
SEWERS:

CURRENT'S  
TOO STRONG --  
SWEEPING ME  
TOWARD THE  
OUTFLOW TUNNELS  
-- ALL THE WAY  
TO GOTHAM  
HARBOR...

... A  
DESTINATION  
THAT'LL  
DEFINITELY  
LEAVE ME  
BREATHLESS.

# NIGHT TERRORS

BATMAN  
CREATED BY

BOB  
KANE,

DOUG  
MOENCH  
WRITER

JIM  
APARO  
PENCILLER

TOM  
MANDRAKE  
INKER

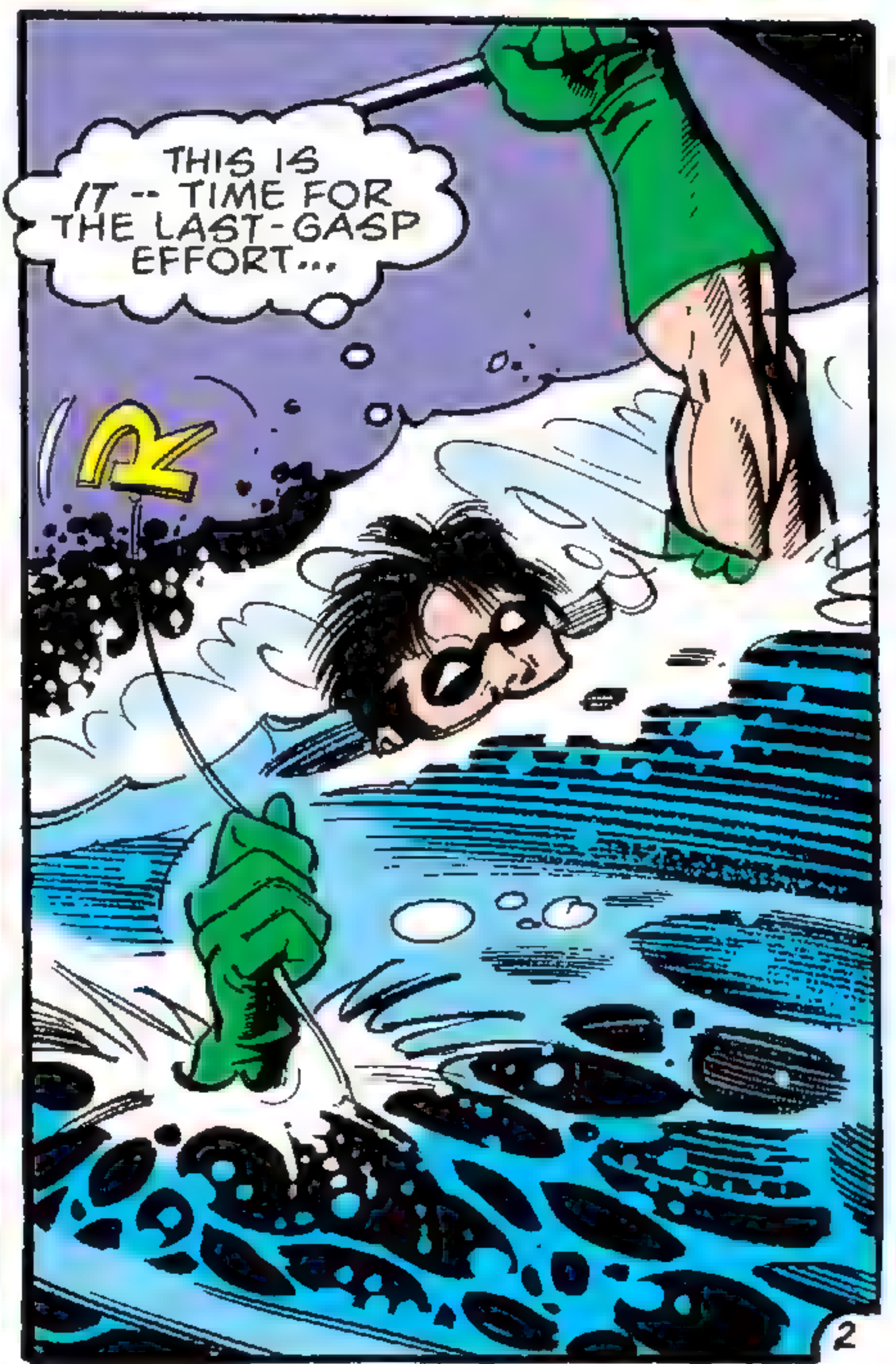
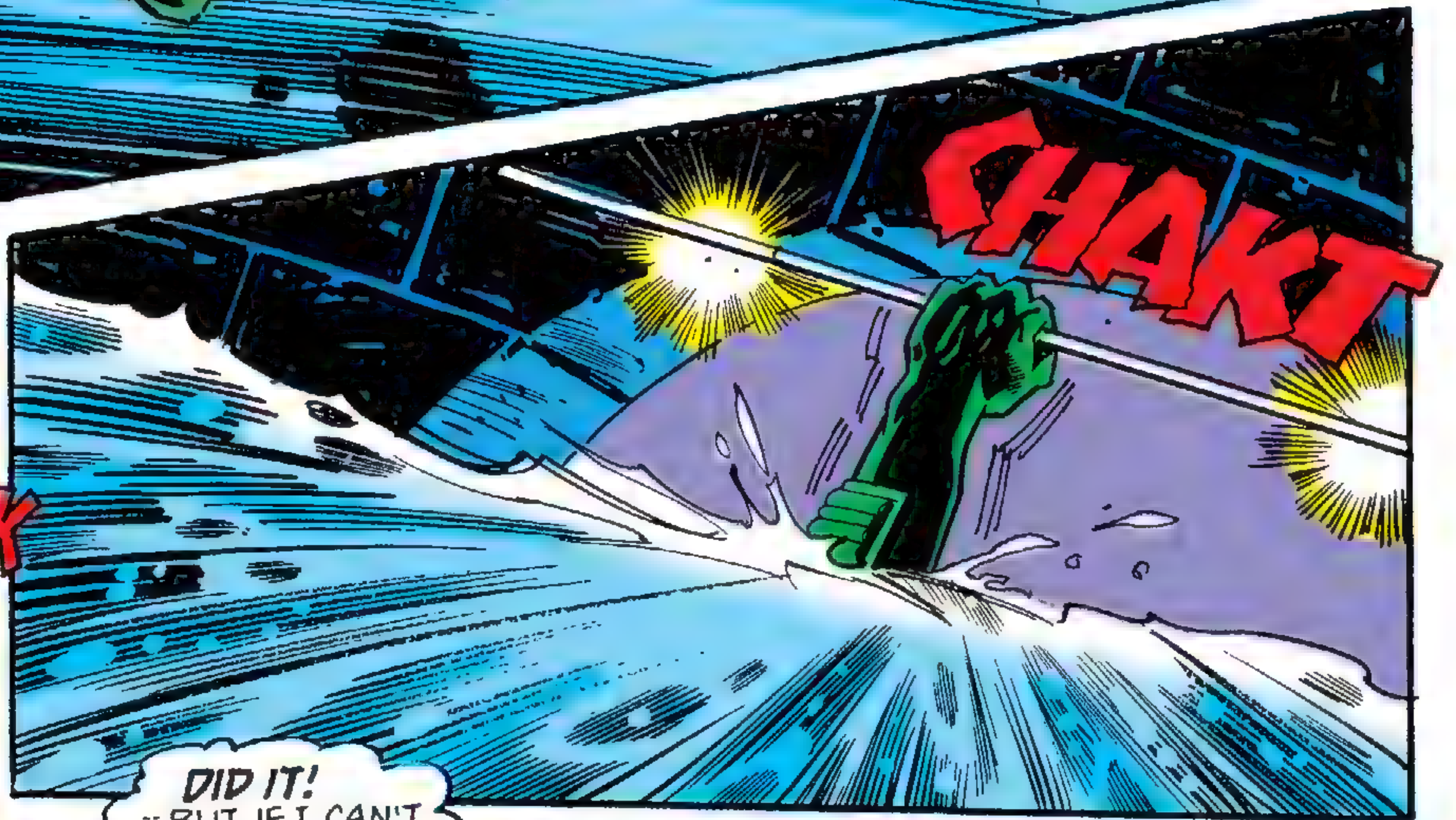
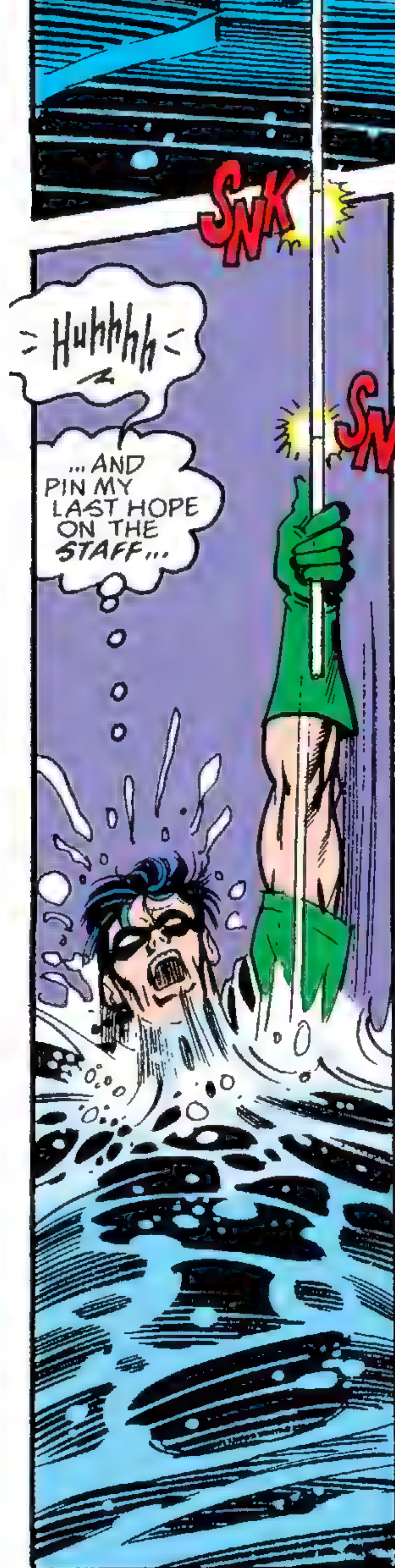
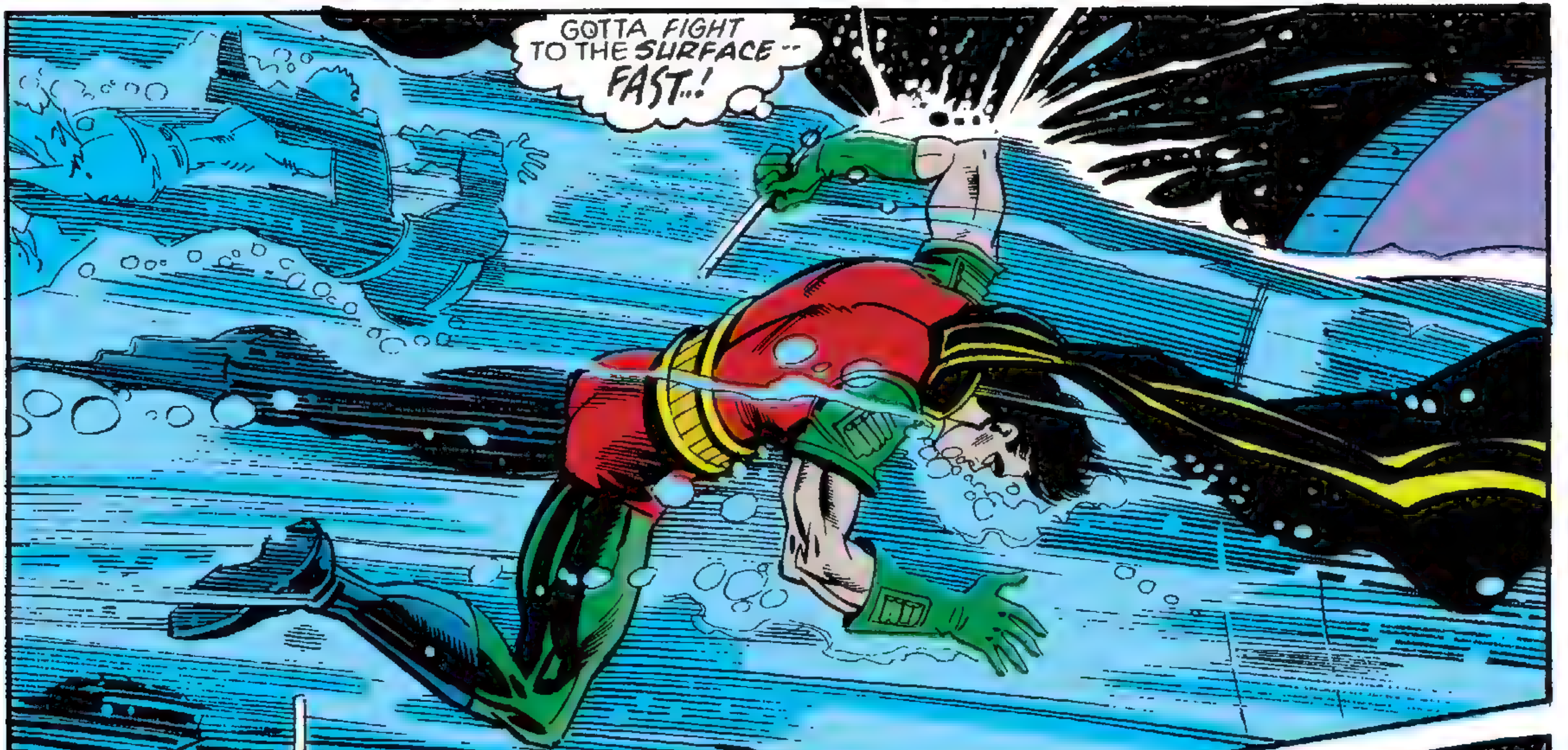
ADRIENNE  
ROY  
COLORIST

RICHARD  
STARKINGS  
LETTERER

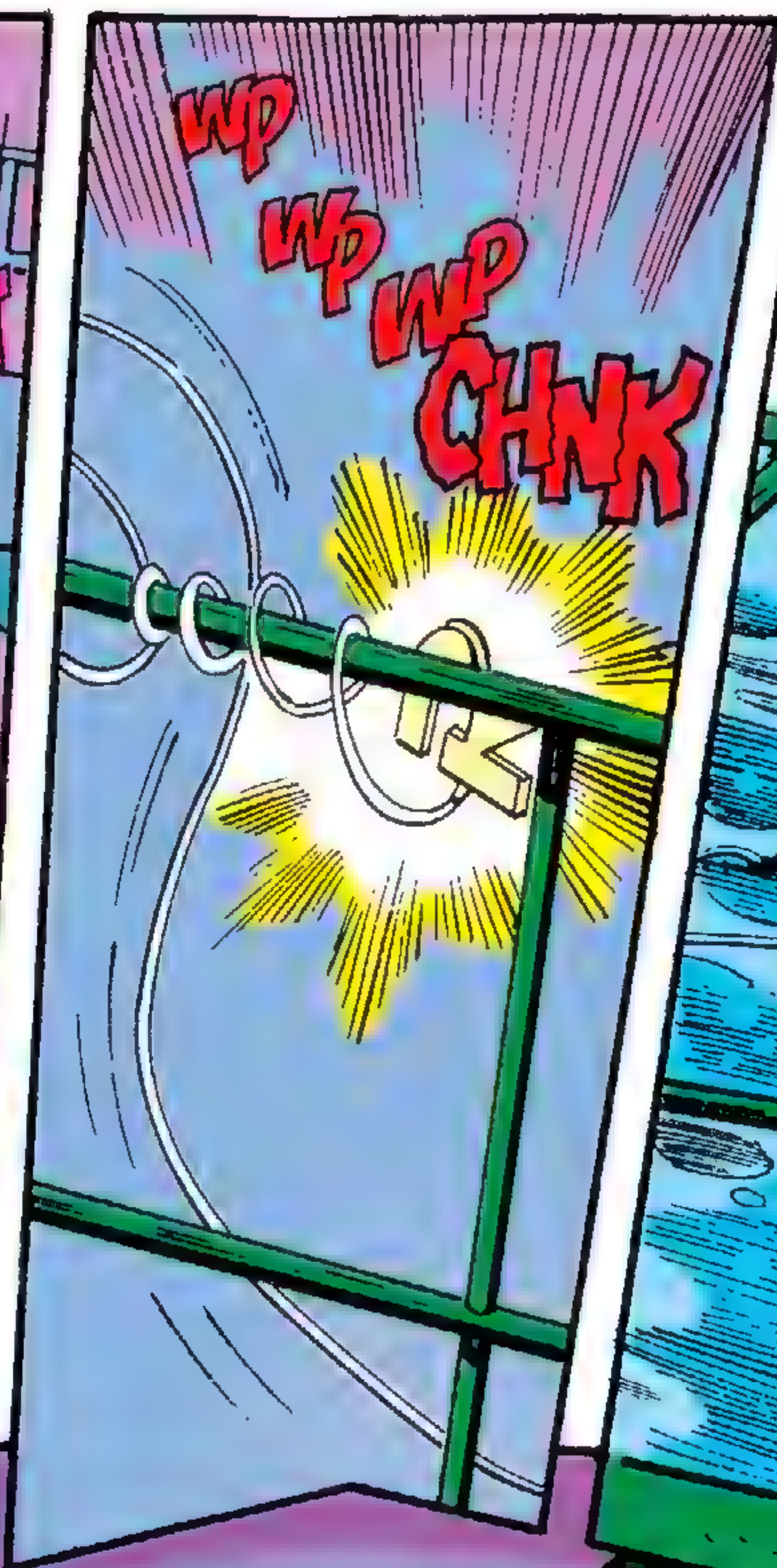
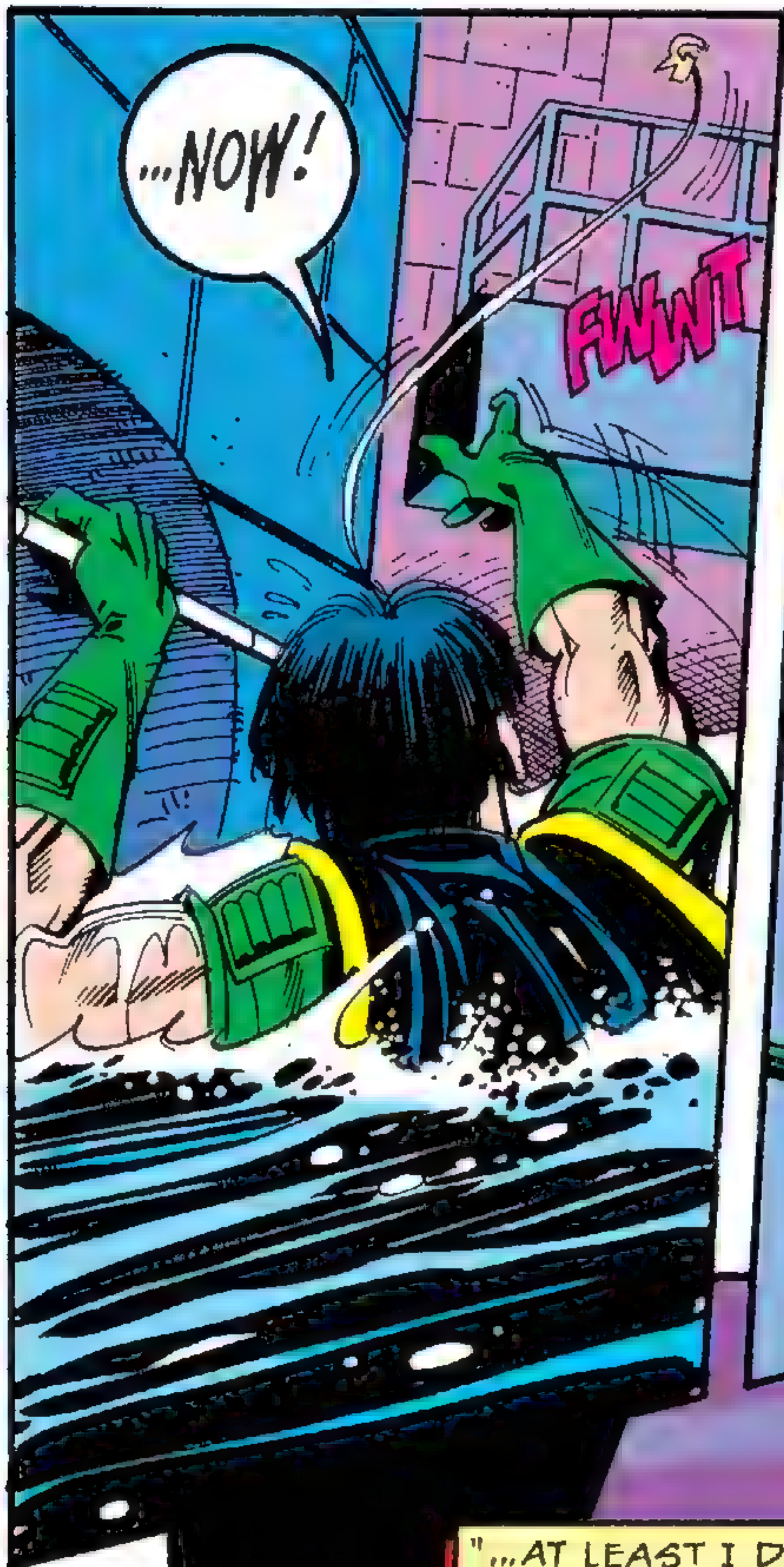
JORDAN B.  
GORFINKEL  
ASST. EDITOR

DENNY  
O'NEIL  
EDITOR







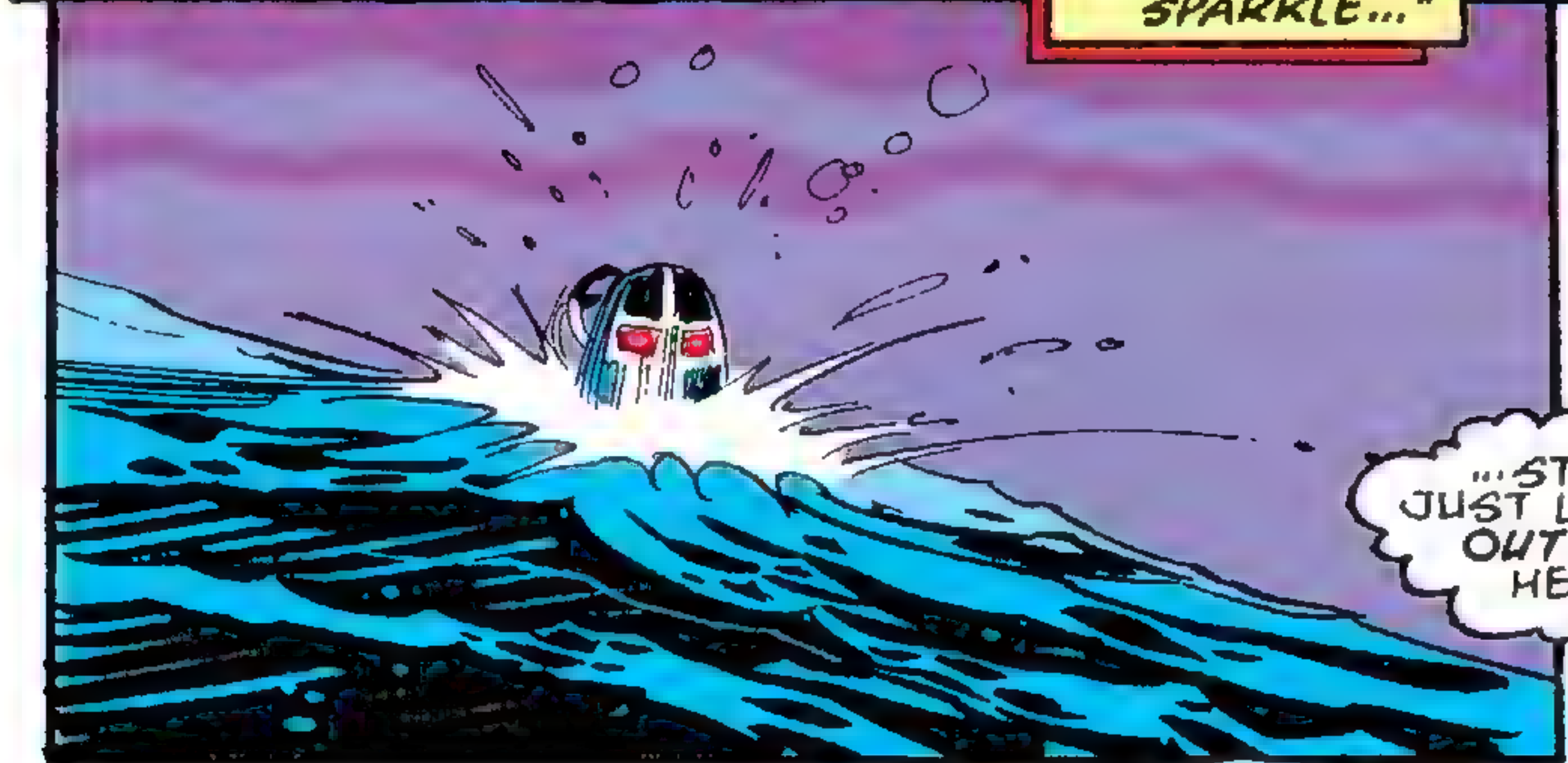


"...AT LEAST I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT BANE AND KILLER CROC ANYMORE..."

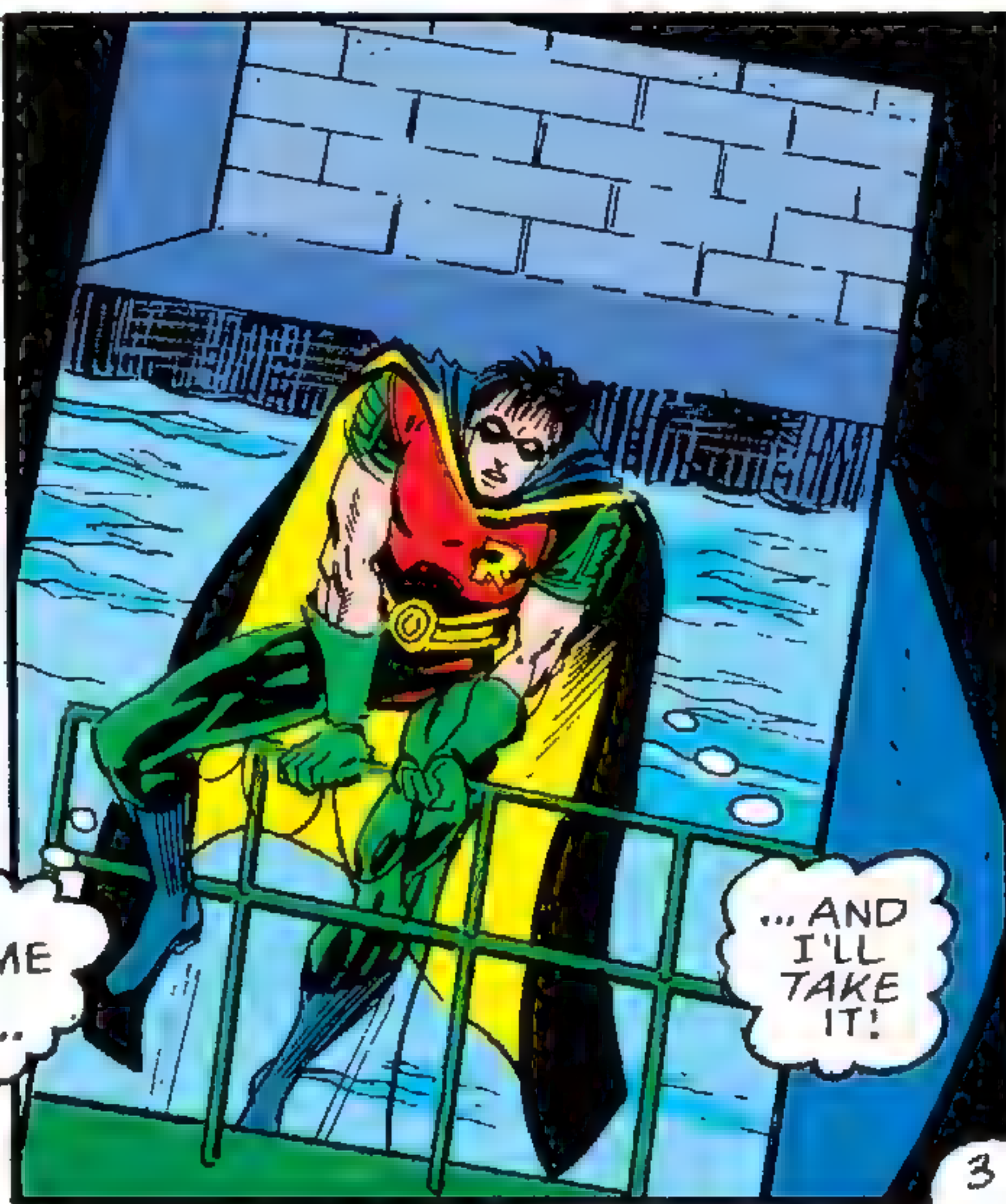


"... BUT, SOMEHOW, THAT PARTICULAR SILVER LINING..."

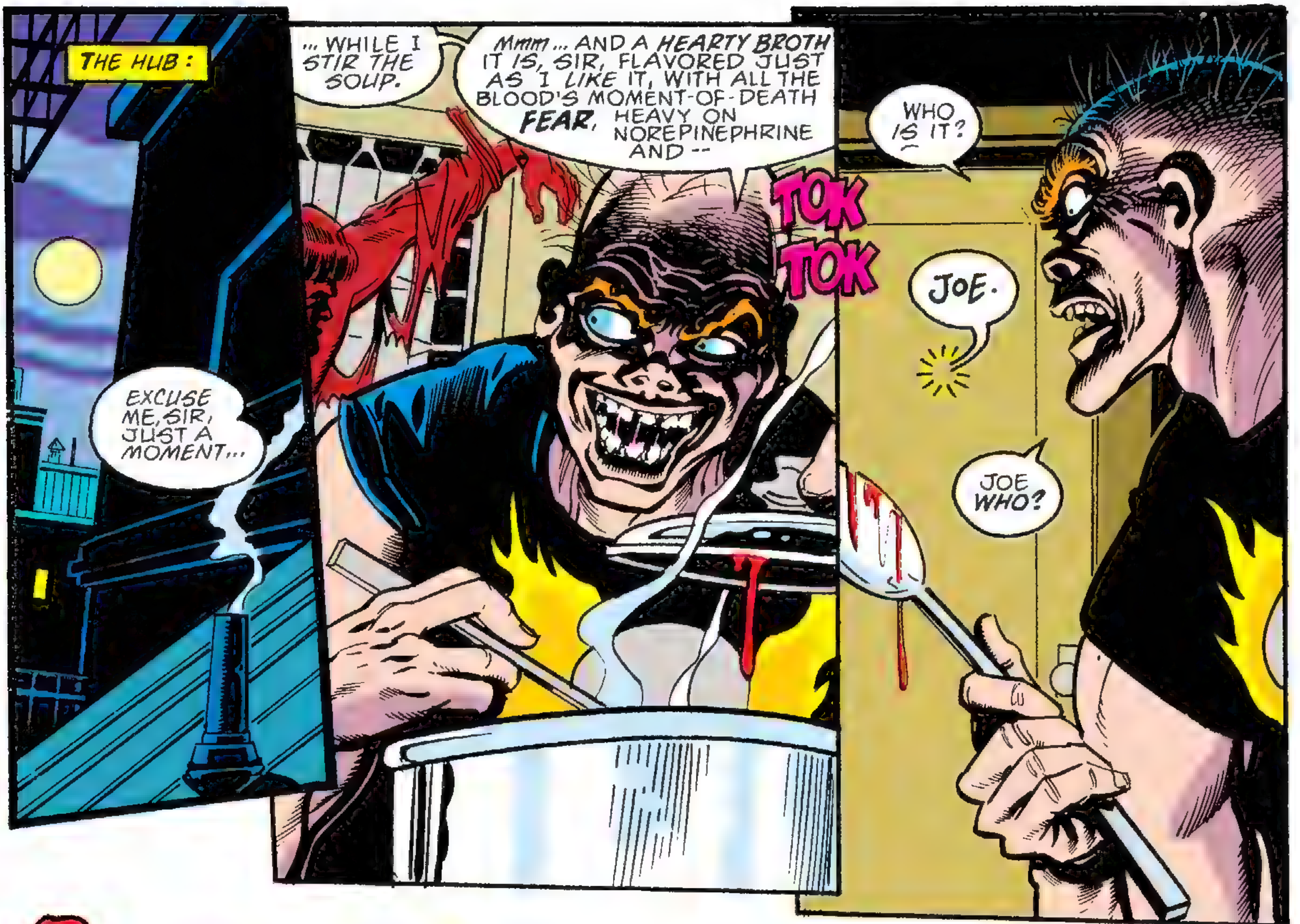
"... LACKS A CERTAIN SHIMMER AND SPARKLE..."



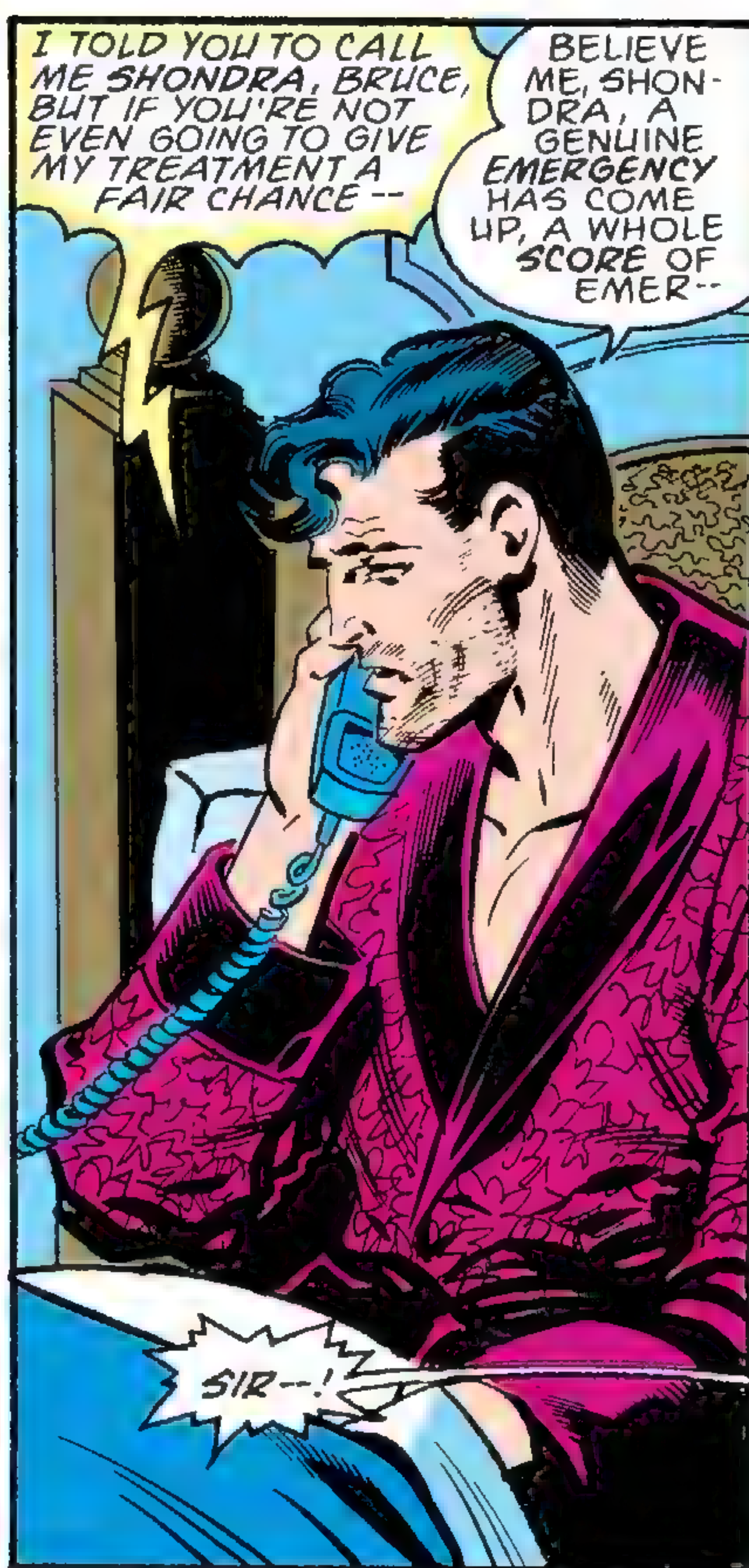
"...STILL, JUST LEMME OUTTA HERE..."















THE MAYOR'S MANSION:

-- ENTIRE SITUATION HAS BEEN MISHANDLED FROM THE BEGINNING, GORDON -- FROM THE FIRST MOMENT THE ARKHAM BREAK-OUT BEGAN!

AND IF YOU DON'T DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT WITHIN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS, I'M GOING TO ASK THE GOVERNOR TO CALL OUT THE NATIONAL GUARD!

BUT, IF YOU DO THAT--

THAT'S RIGHT, GORDON...



THE MAYOR OF THIS CITY WIELDS IMMENSE POWER, AND WITH THE PUBLICITY SURROUNDING A SINGLE PHONE CALL...



--I CAN DESTROY YOUR CAREER.



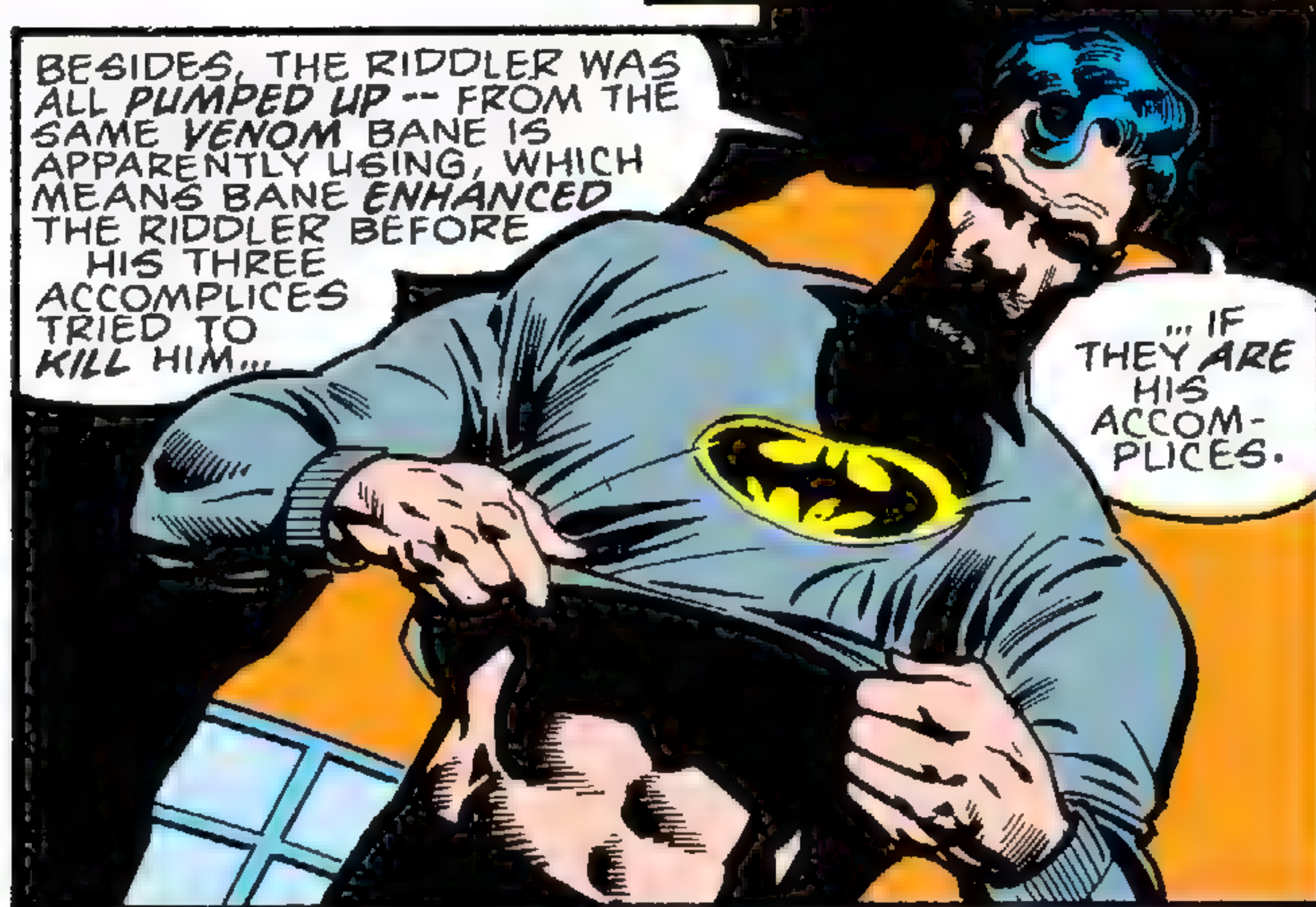
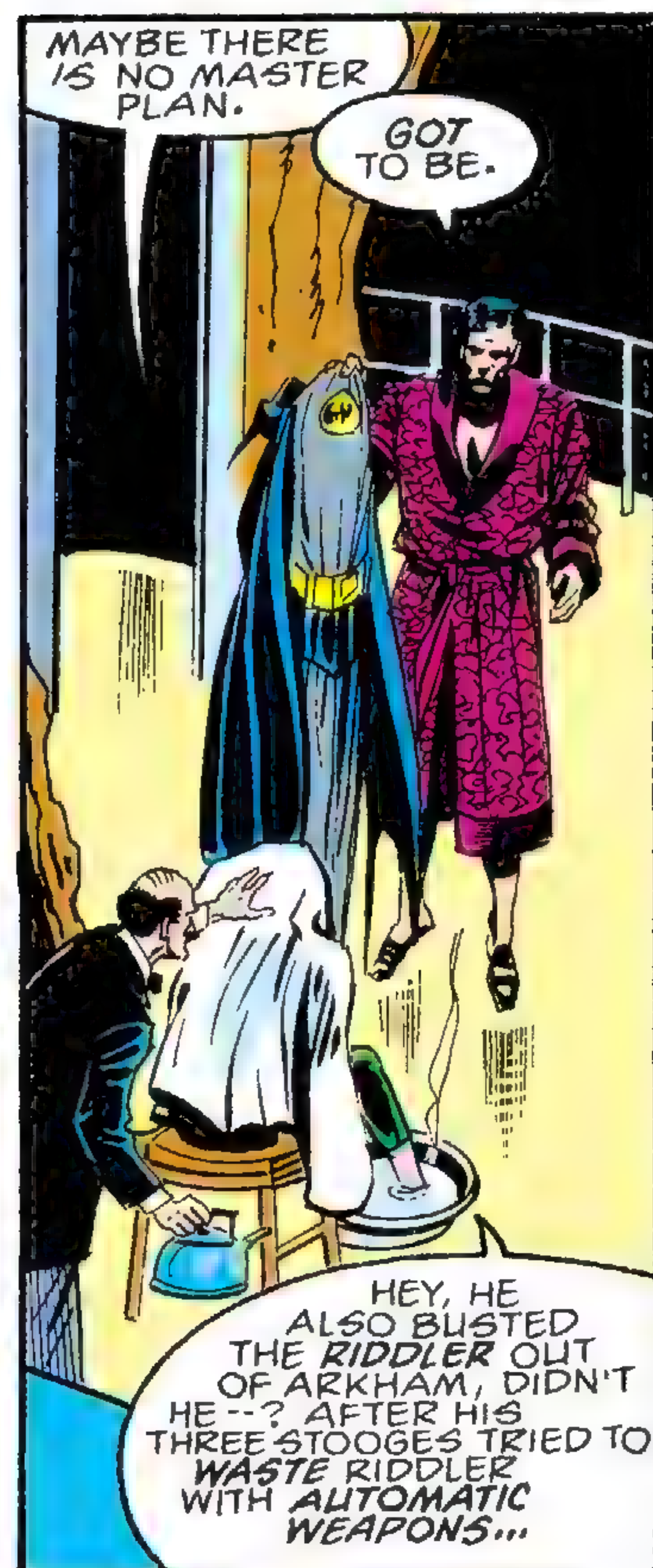
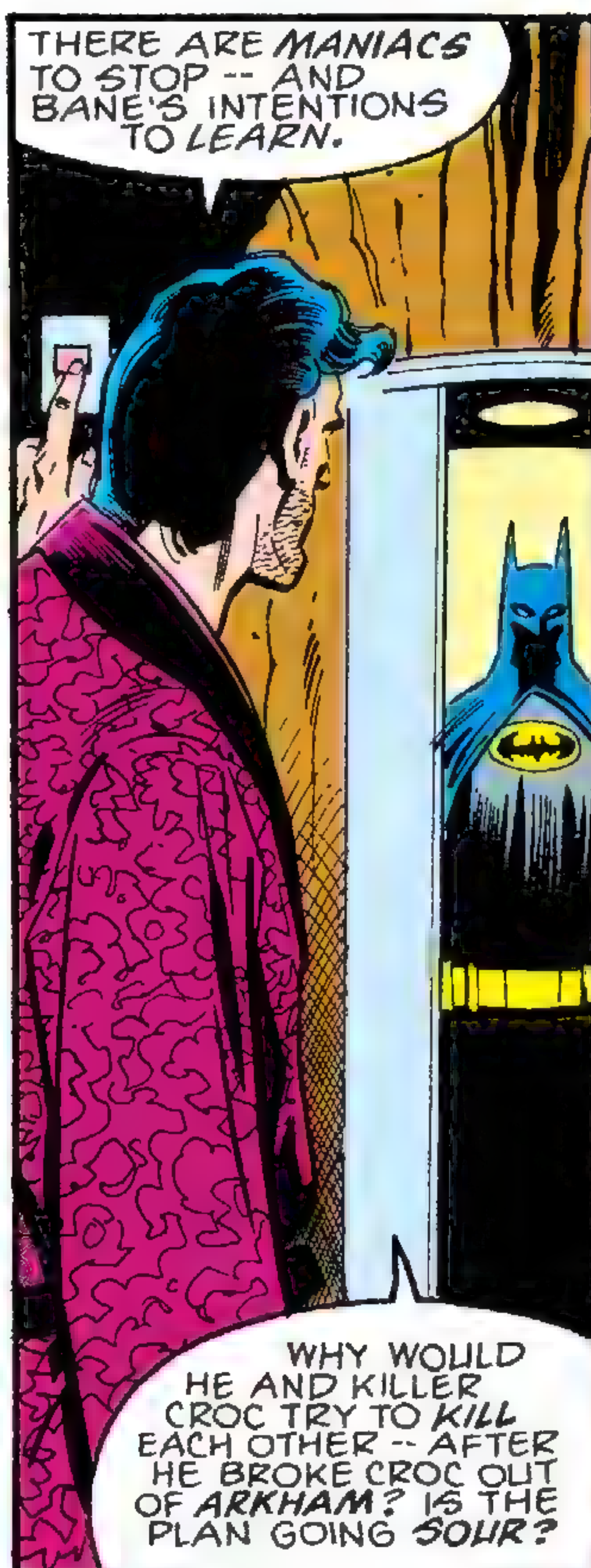
THE CAVE:

--SURE YOU'RE ALL RIGHT?

ME? WHAT ABOUT YOU, MAN?

STAY HUNCHED OVER, TIMOTHY...









I STILL DON'T BUY IT, ROBIN.

AT THE VERY LEAST, BANE IS USING THE ARKHAM INMATES HE FREED -- FOR A DELIBERATE PURPOSE.

RIGHT-- AND HE'S USING THEM TO DESTROY YOU --!



THAT'S THE PURPOSE -- AND YOU CAN'T FALL FOR IT!

WHAT'S THE ALTERNATIVE, ROBIN? LETTING MADNESS RUN ROUGHSHOD OVER GOTHAM?

I TOLD YOU WHAT ZSASZ DID!



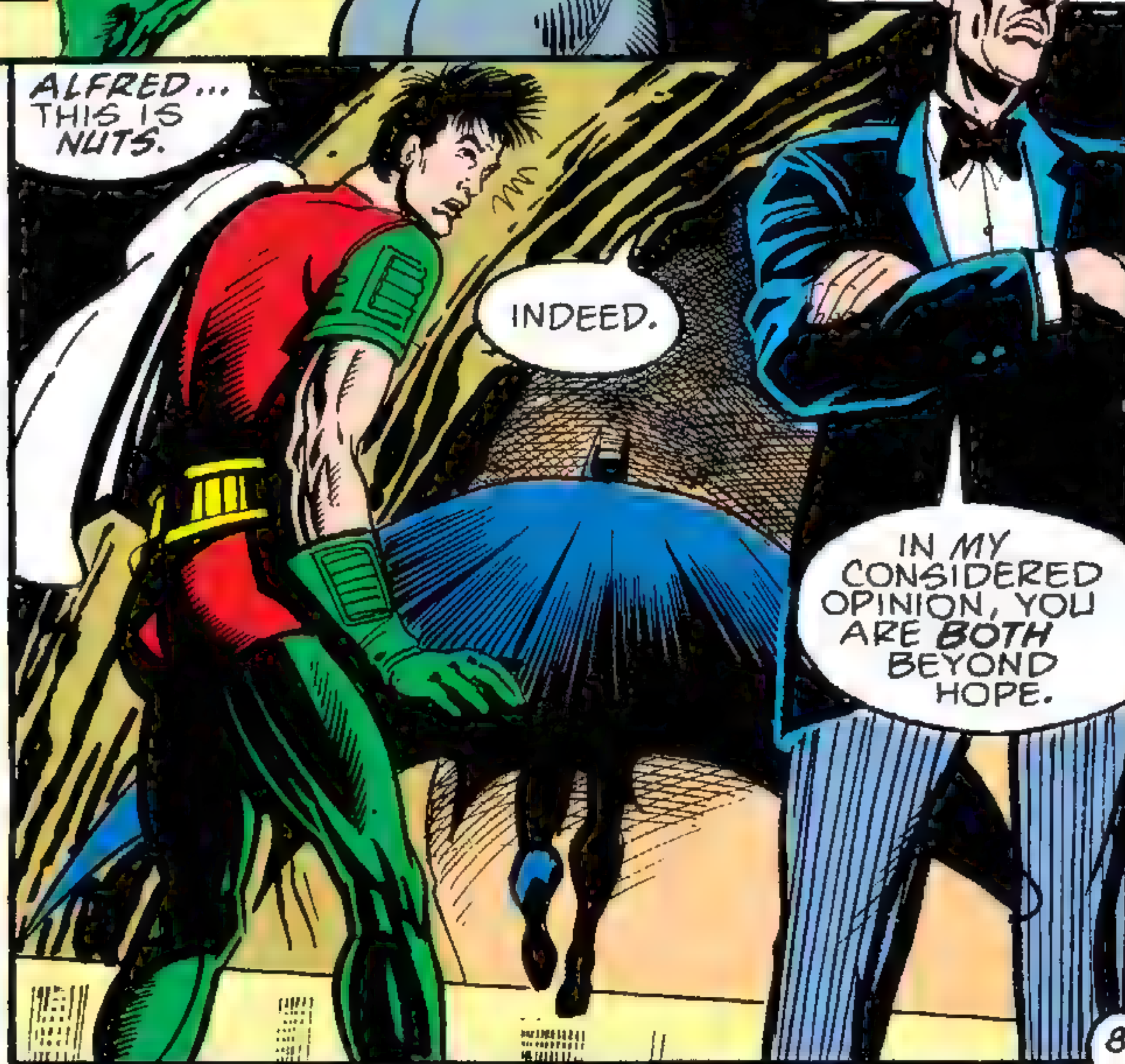
HEY, I KNOW THE SITUATION, BUT YOU NEED A REST.

MAYBE IF AZRAEL AND I --

JEAN-PAUL IS FORMIDABLE -- MAYBE EVEN UP TO THE TASK...



BUT BANE IS AFTER ME -- AND AS LONG AS I CAN STAND, THIS IS MY BUSINESS.

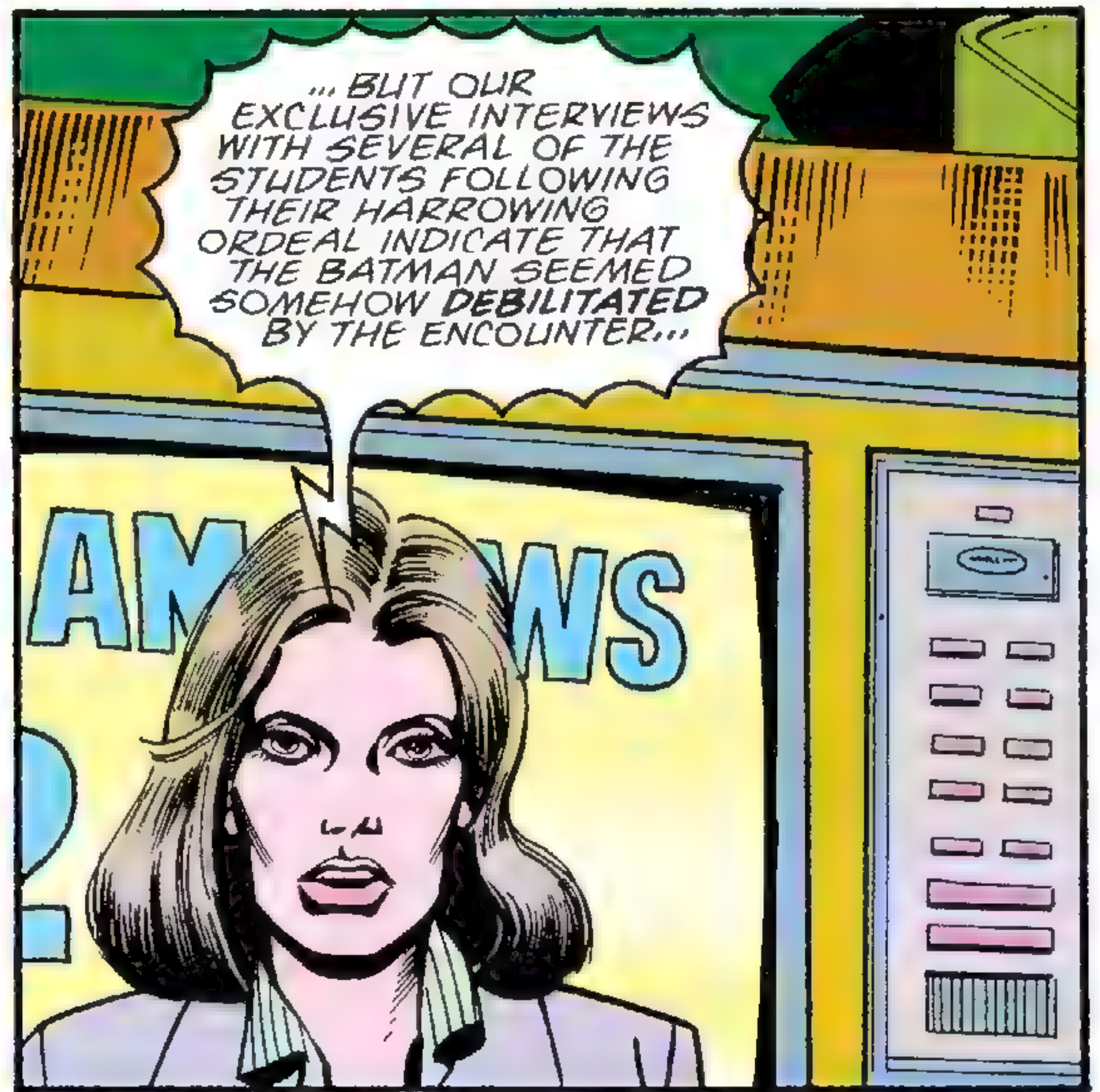
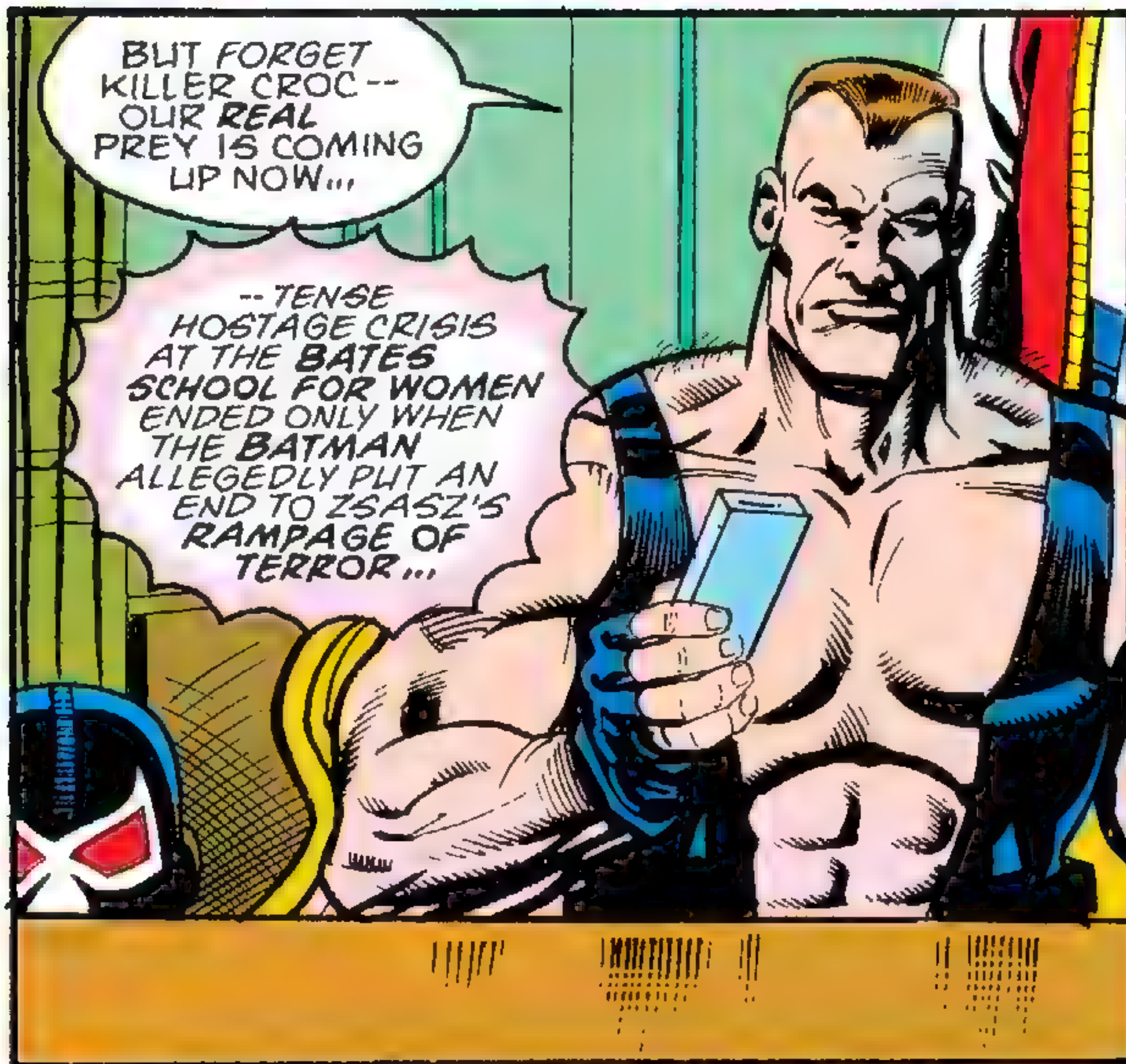
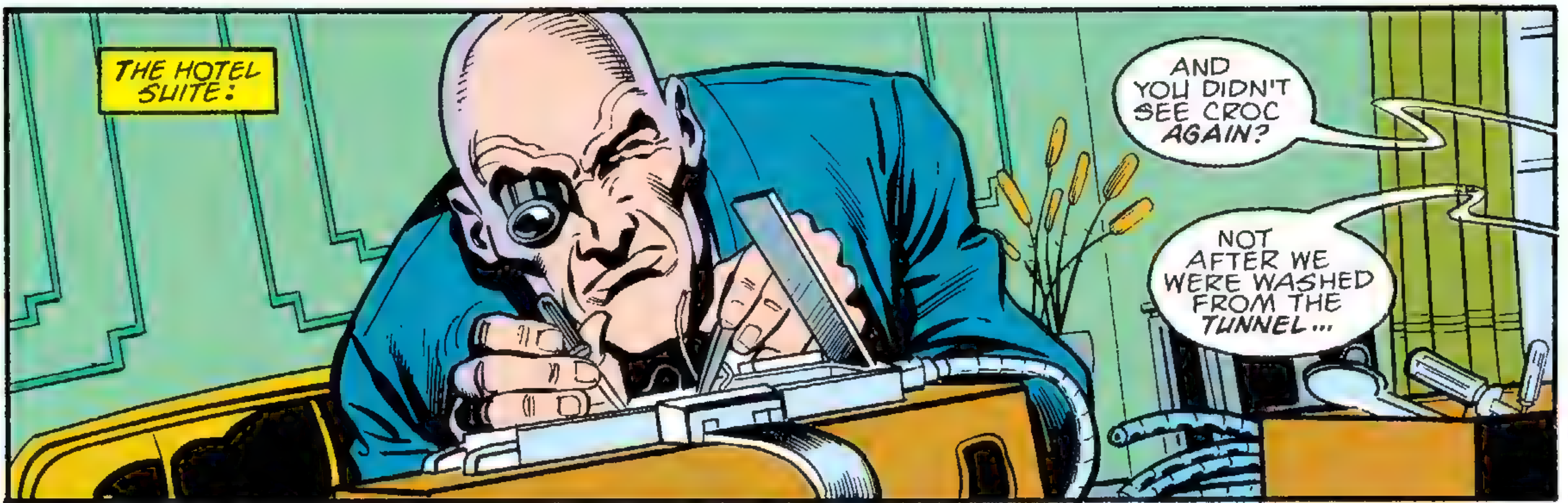


ALFRED... THIS IS NUTS.

INDEED.

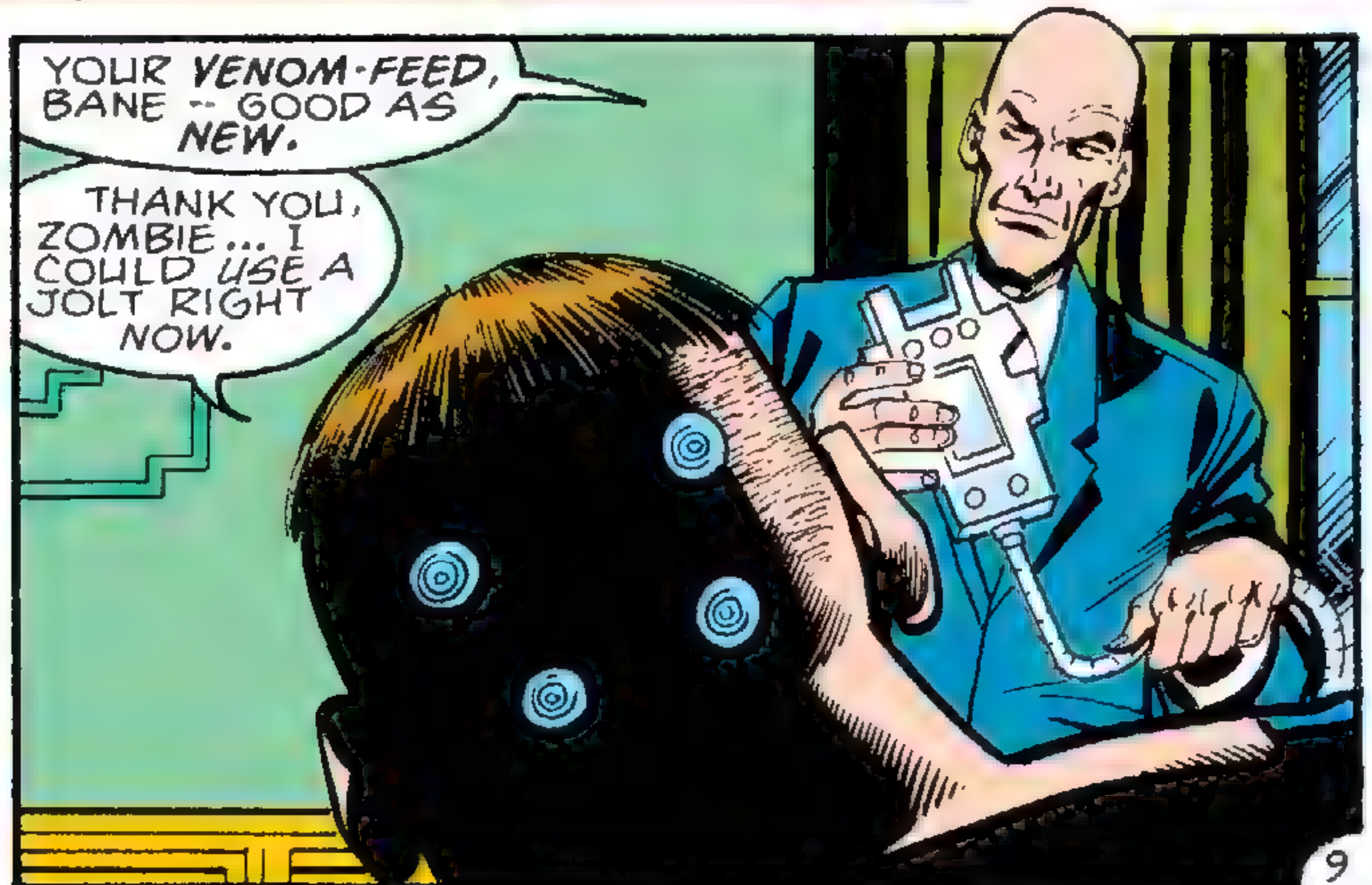
IN MY CONSIDERED OPINION, YOU ARE BOTH BEYOND HOPE.



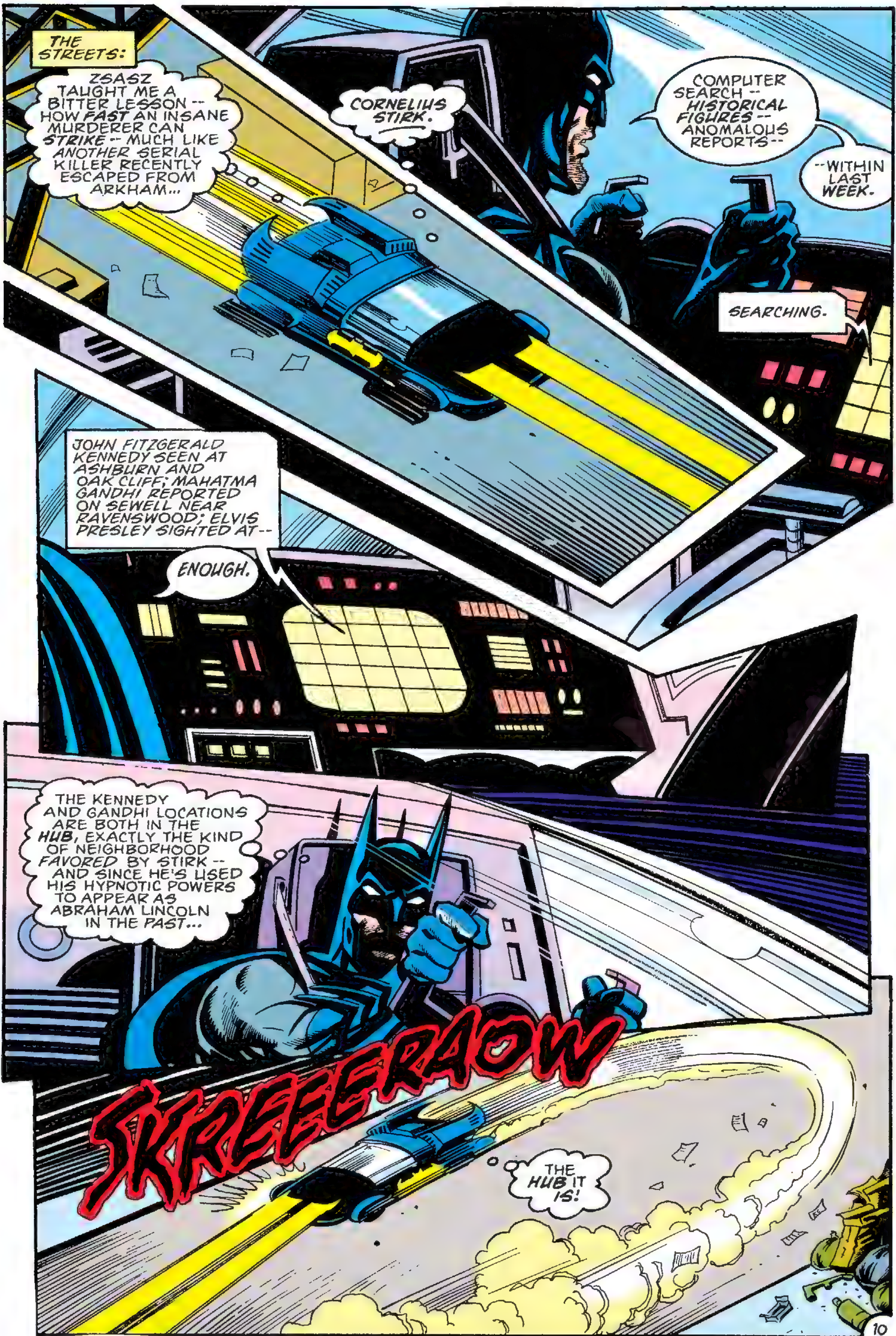


THE PLAN IS WORKING.

THE BATMAN IS REELING... READY TO FALL.







THE  
STREETS:

ZSASZ  
TAUGHT ME A  
BITTER LESSON --  
HOW FAST AN INSANE  
MURDERER CAN  
STRIKE -- MUCH LIKE  
ANOTHER SERIAL  
KILLER RECENTLY  
ESCAPED FROM  
ARKHAM...

CORNELIUS  
STIRK.

COMPUTER  
SEARCH --  
HISTORICAL  
FIGURES --  
ANOMALOUS  
REPORTS --

--WITHIN  
LAST  
WEEK.

SEARCHING.

JOHN FITZGERALD  
KENNEDY SEEN AT  
ASHBURN AND  
OAK CLIFF; MAHATMA  
GANDHI REPORTED  
ON SEWELL NEAR  
RAVENSWOOD; ELVIS  
PRESLEY SIGHTED AT--

ENOUGH.

THE KENNEDY  
AND GANDHI LOCATIONS  
ARE BOTH IN THE  
HUB, EXACTLY THE KIND  
OF NEIGHBORHOOD  
FAVORED BY STIRK --  
AND SINCE HE'S USED  
HIS HYPNOTIC POWERS  
TO APPEAR AS  
ABRAHAM LINCOLN  
IN THE PAST...

SKREEEERAW

THE  
HUB  
IT  
IS!









P- PLEASE...  
I... I'M  
TERRIFIED OF  
HEIGHTS...

YOUR  
GREATEST  
FEAR... YOUR  
MOST PROMINENT  
PHOBIA...  
CHEMICALLY  
INDUCED...



...AND  
THERE'S A LOT  
MORE WHERE  
IT CAME FROM  
IF YOU DON'T  
TALK!

天  
天  
天

WHY  
MIGHT  
THE  
JOKER  
NEED YOU  
LATER?  
WHAT FOR?  
WHAT'S HE  
UP TO?



K-KIDNAP AND  
C-CONTROL COMMISSIONER  
GORDON... USE HIM TO...  
F-FOUL UP THE WHOLE...  
P- POLICE FORCE... SO  
W-WE CAN DO WHATEVER  
WE W-WANT...

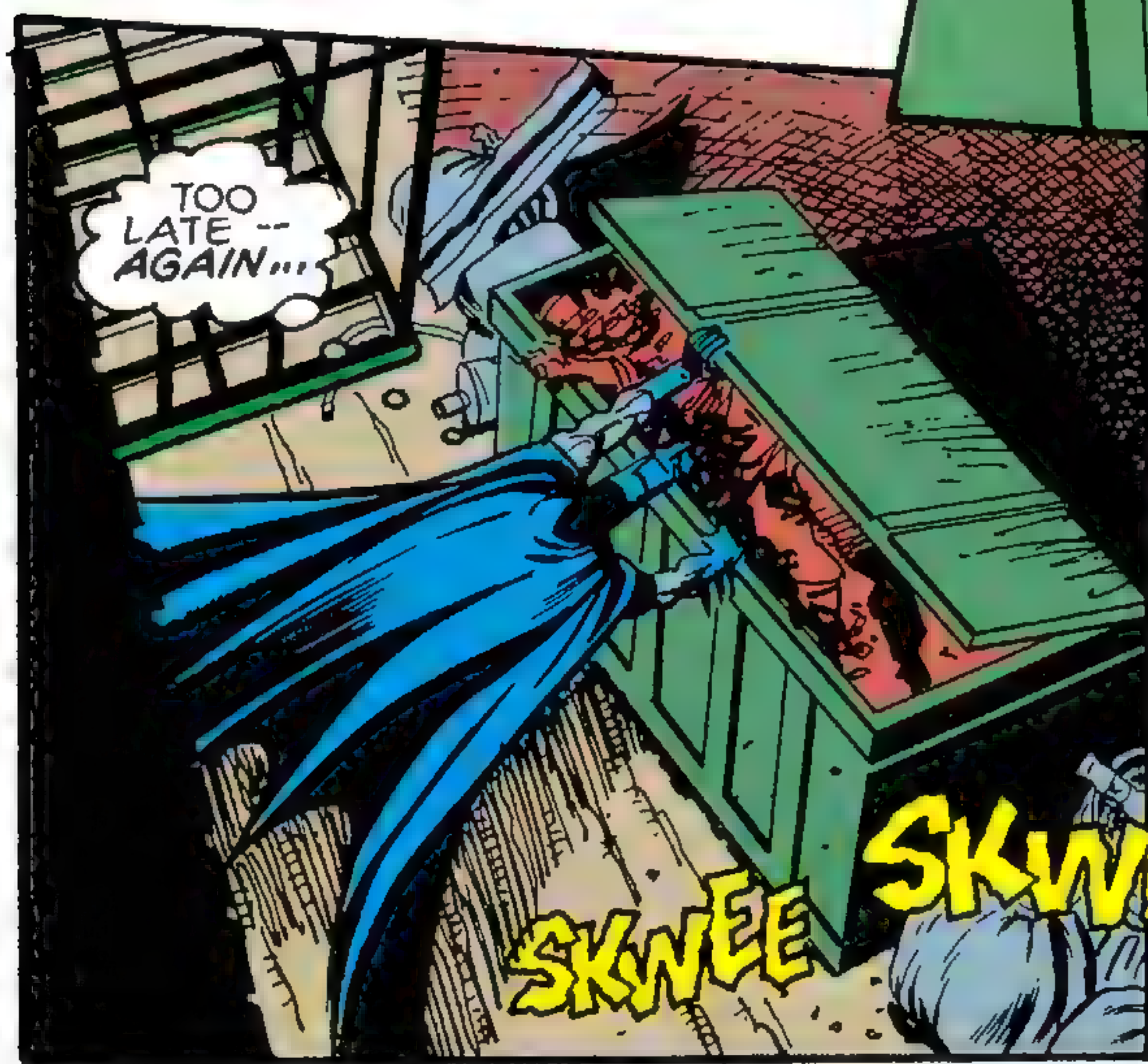
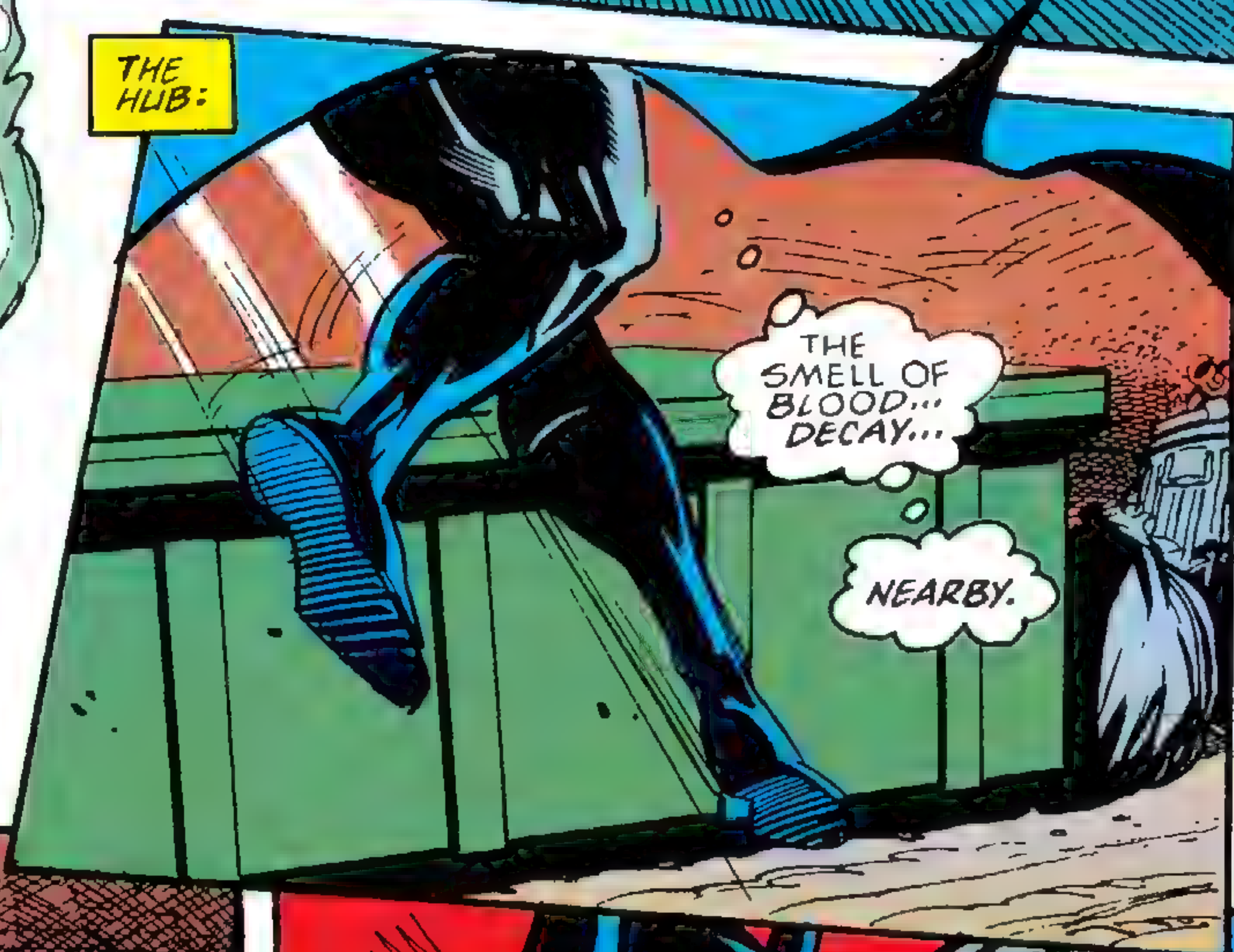


... BUT P- PLEASE...  
IF THESE  
POOLCUES  
B-BREAK...



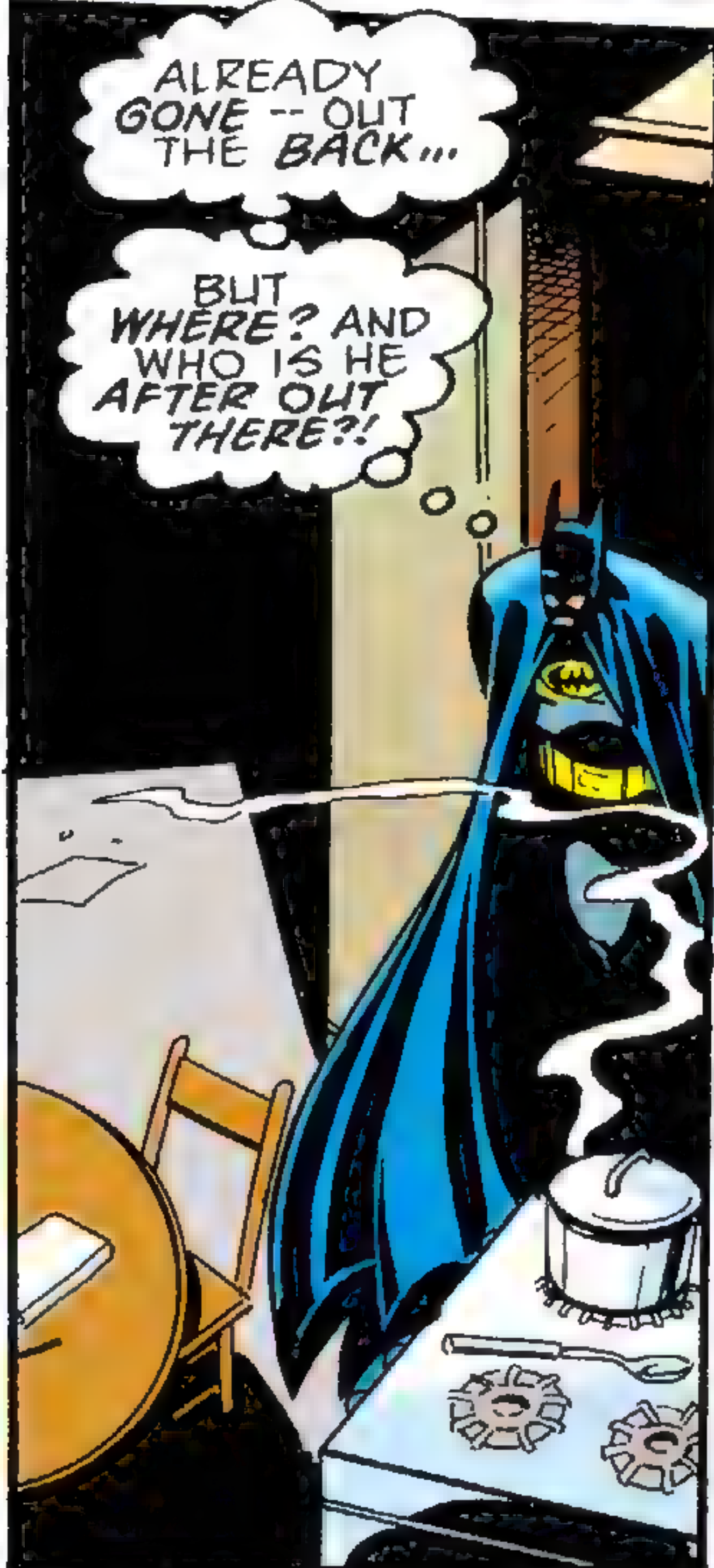
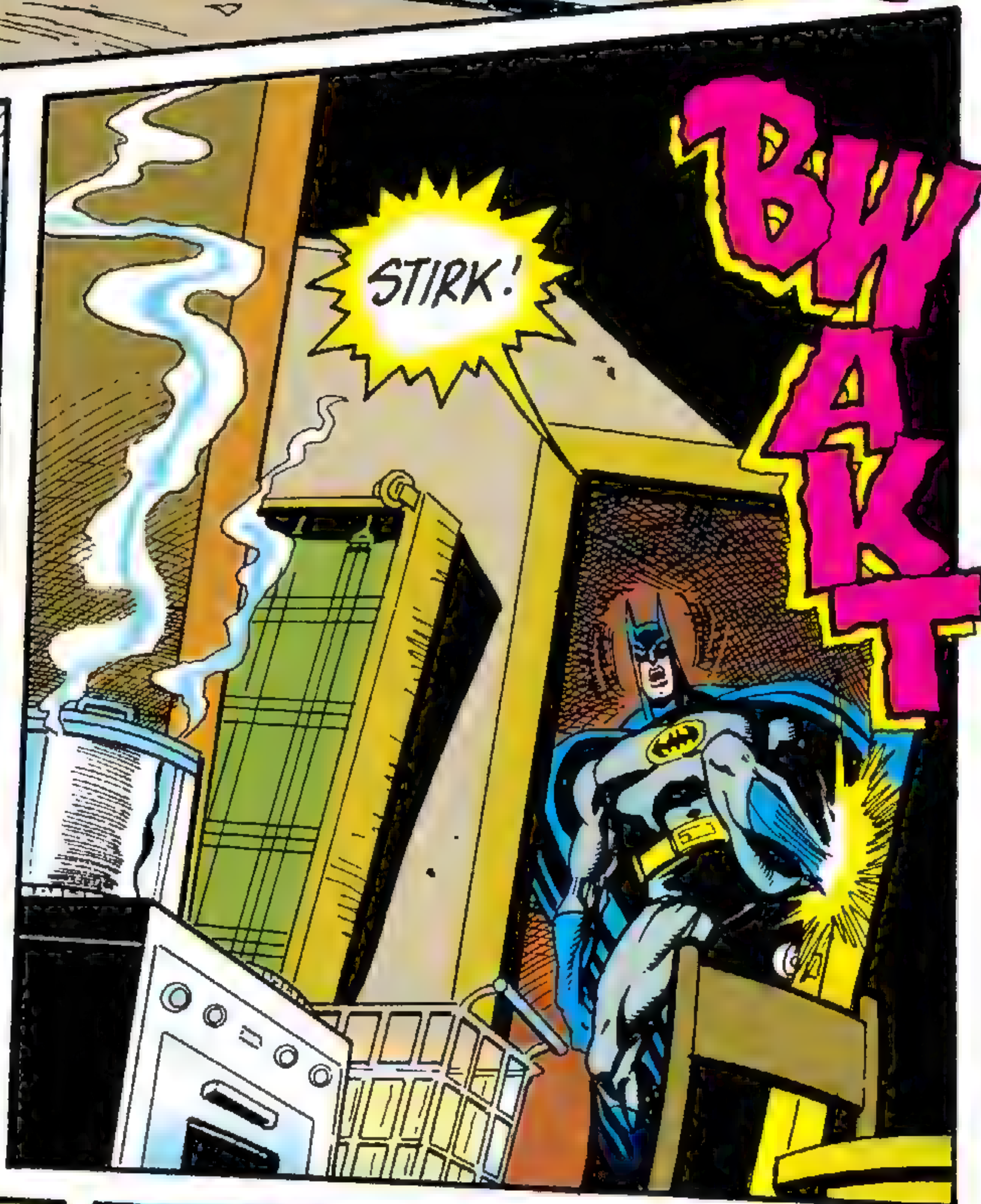
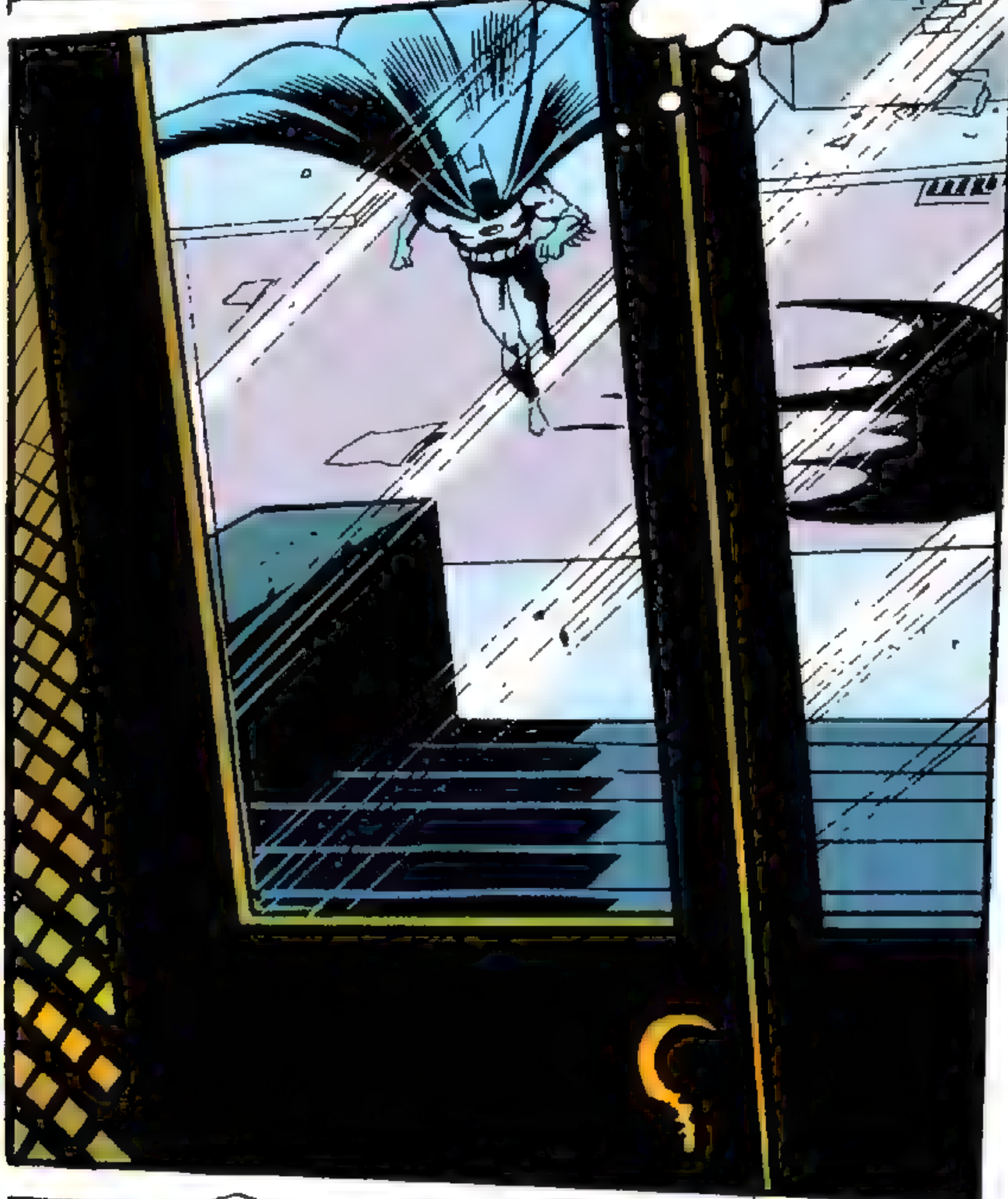
KRATCH



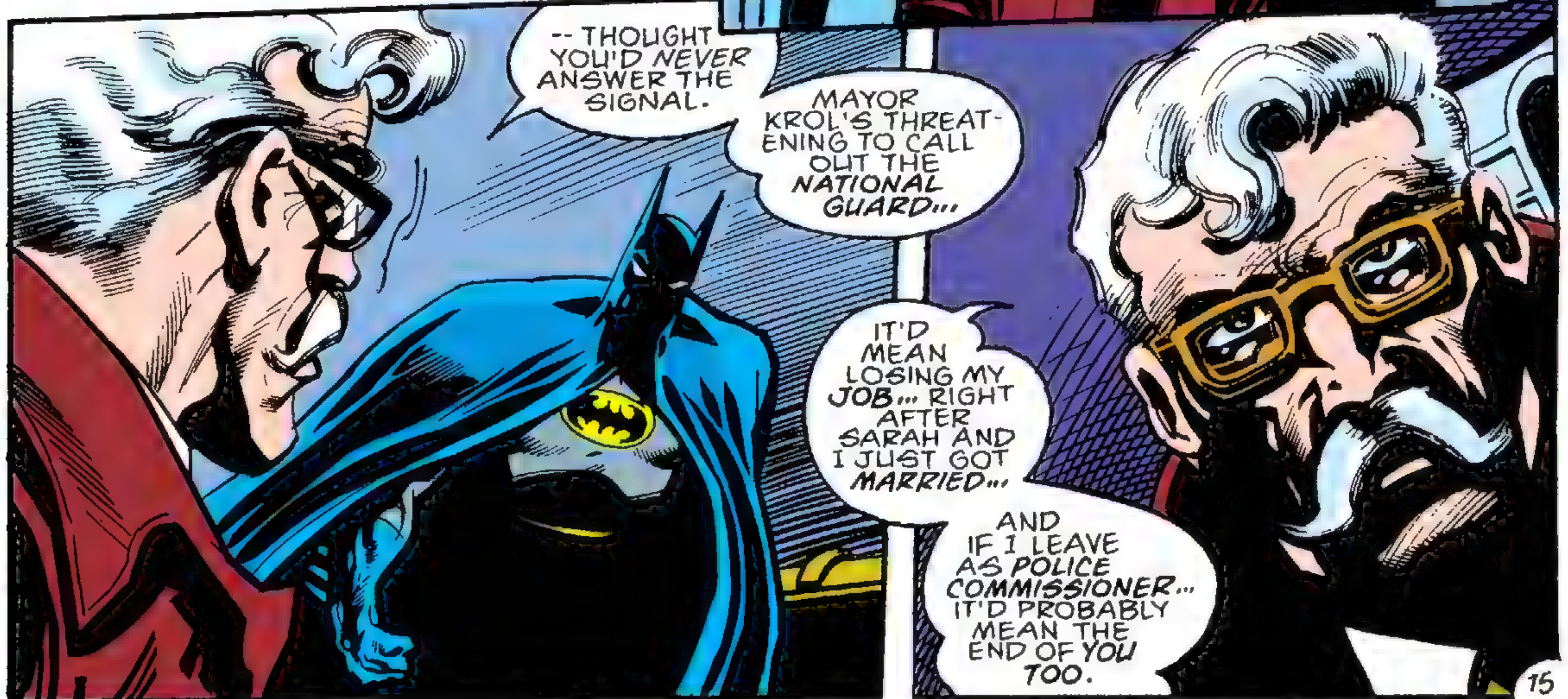
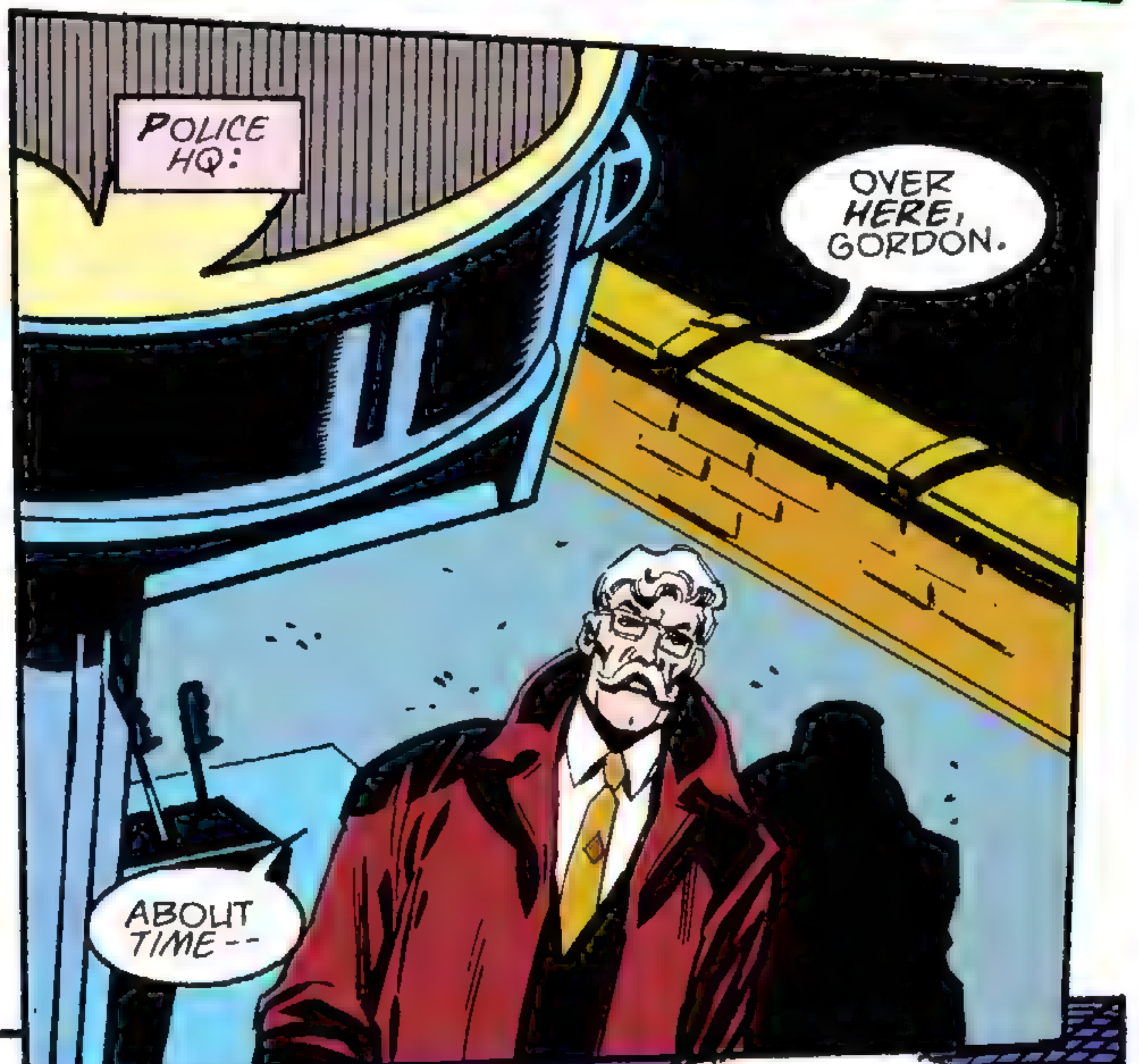
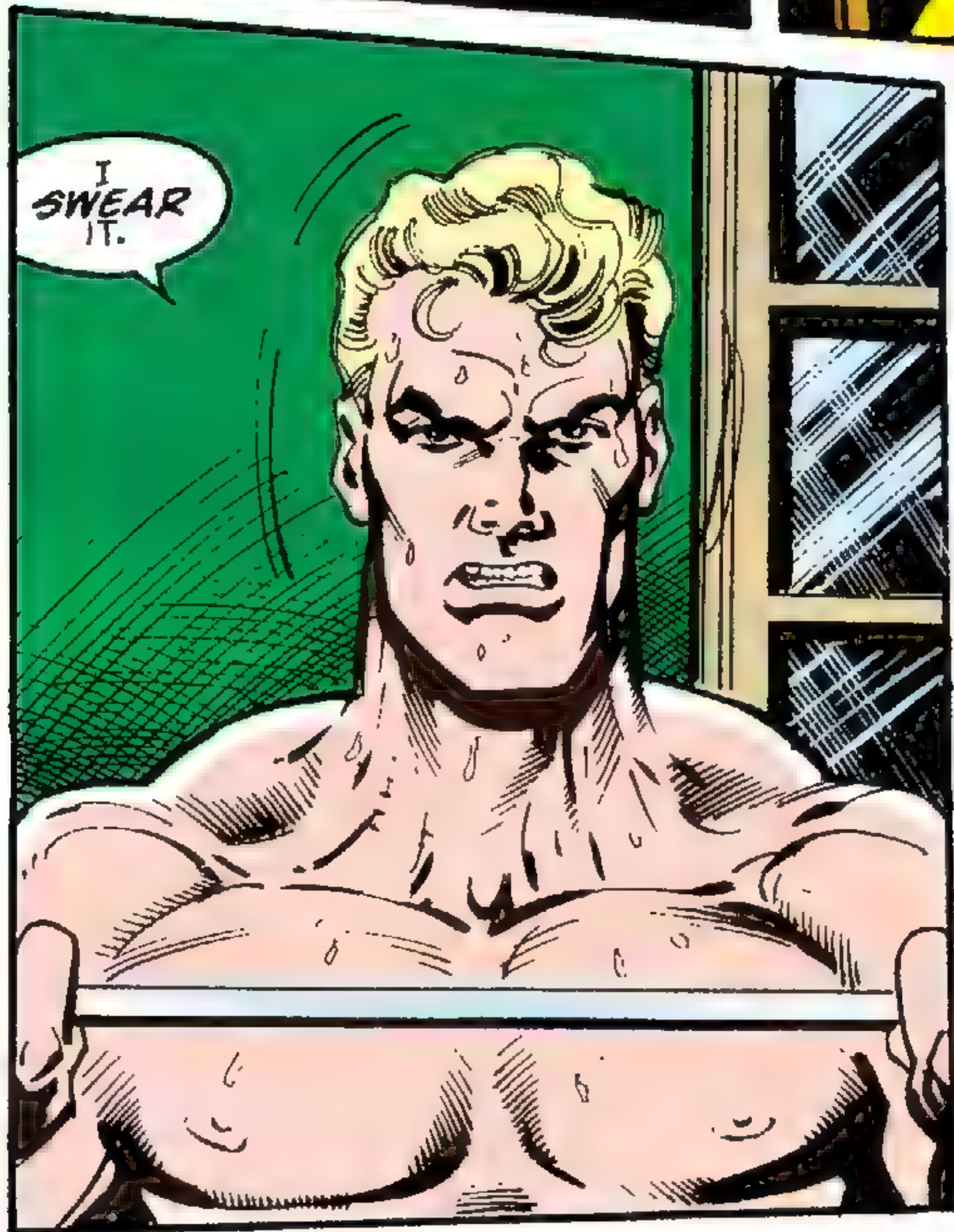
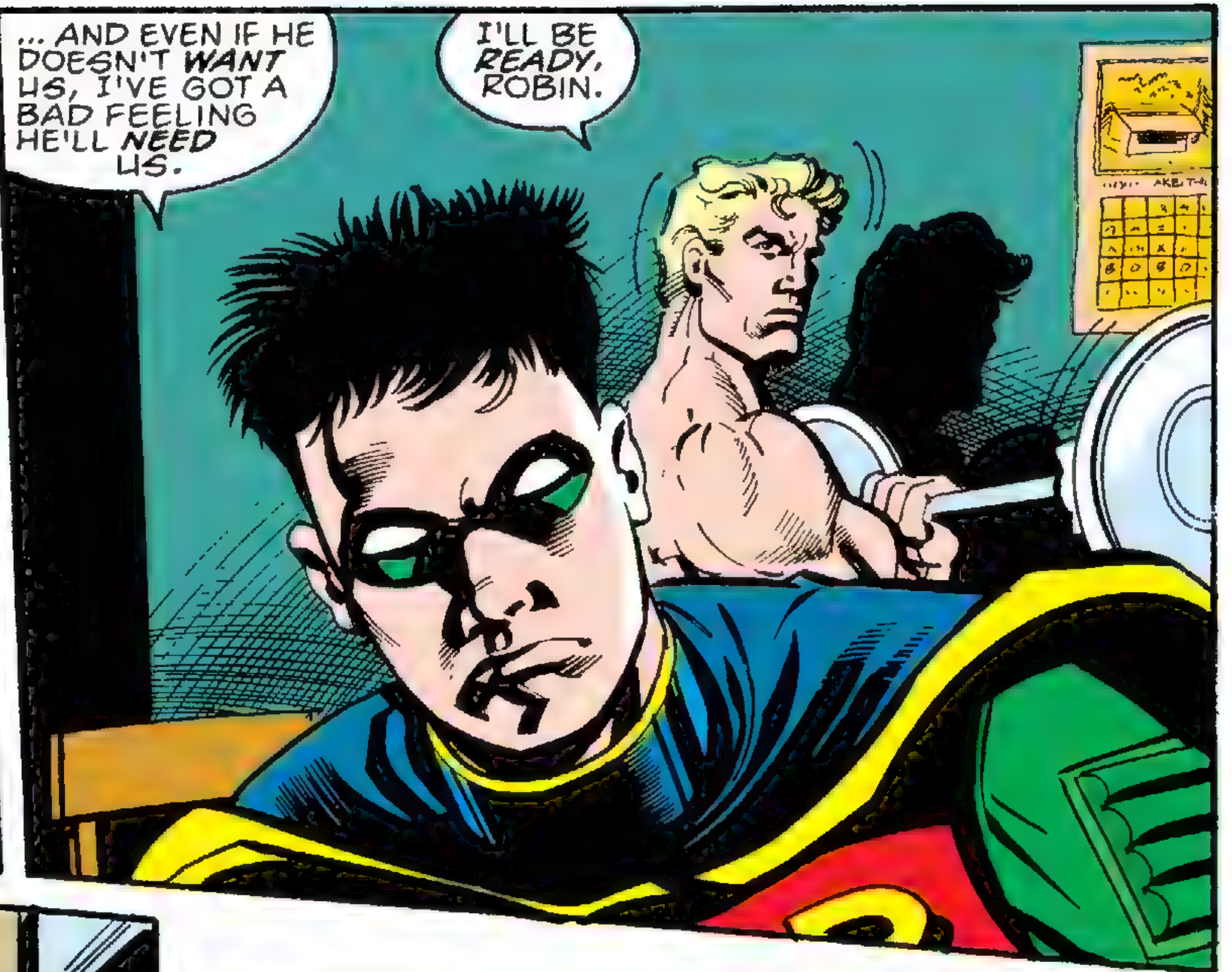


SKWEE SKWEE SKWEE SKWEE

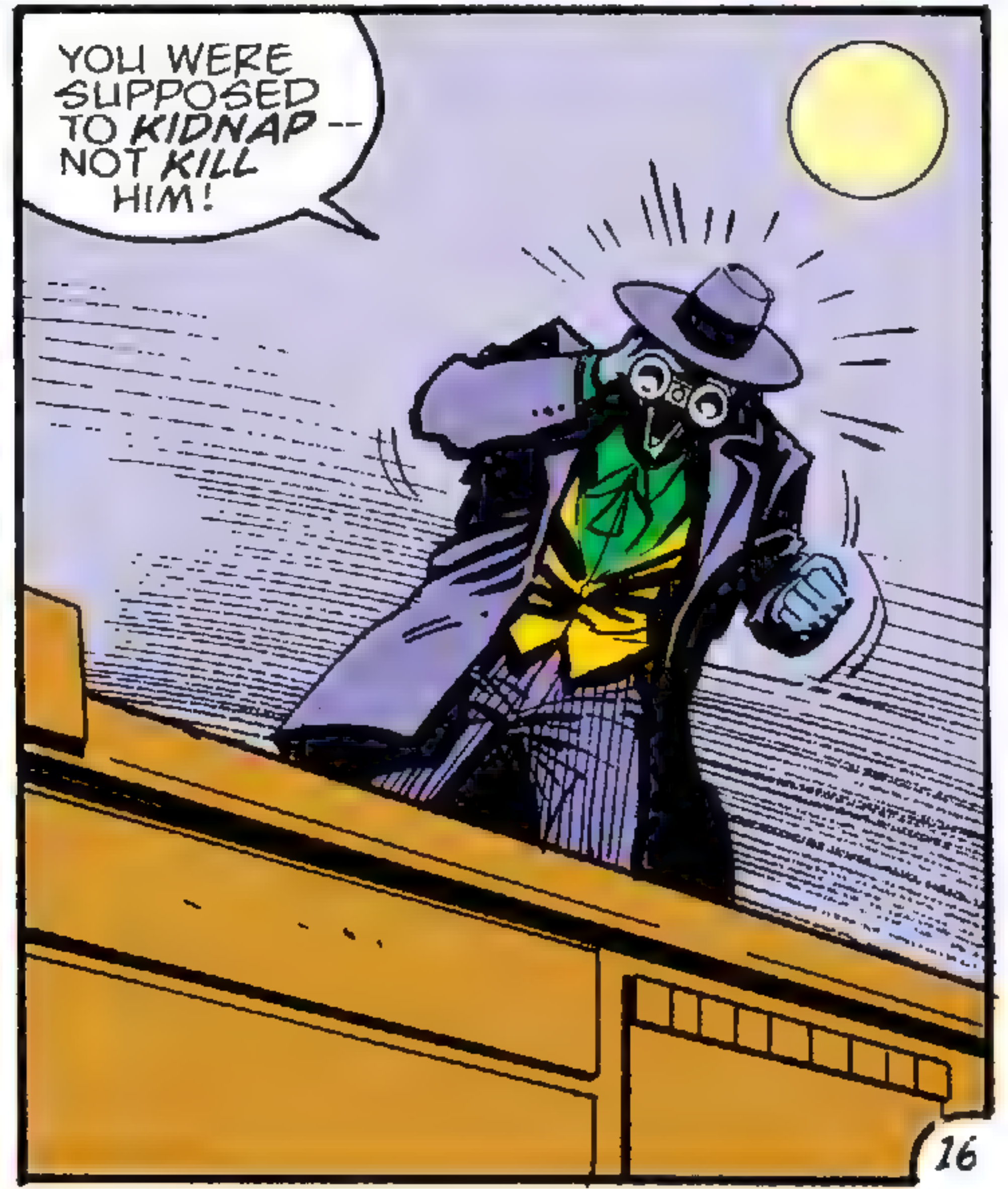
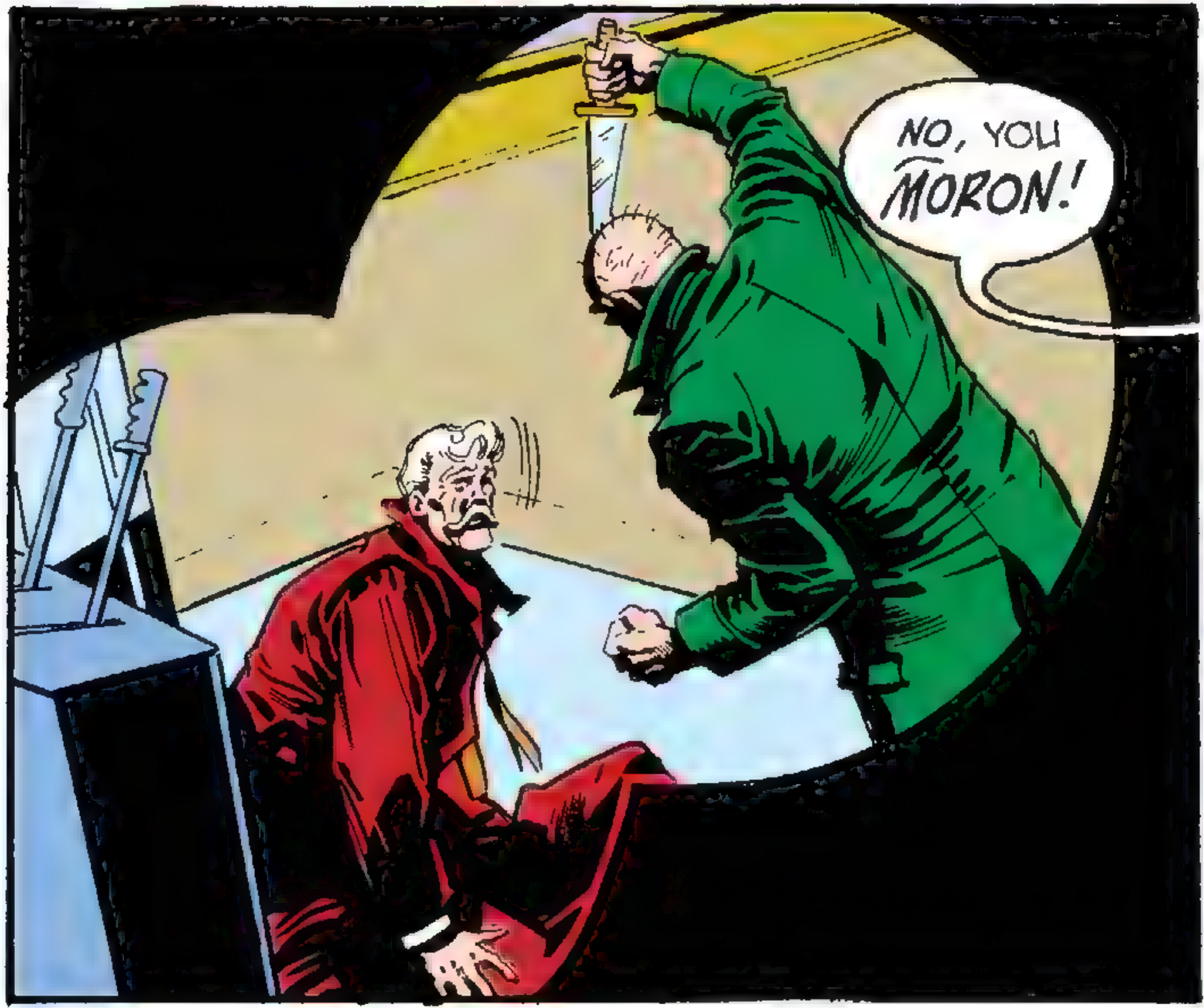
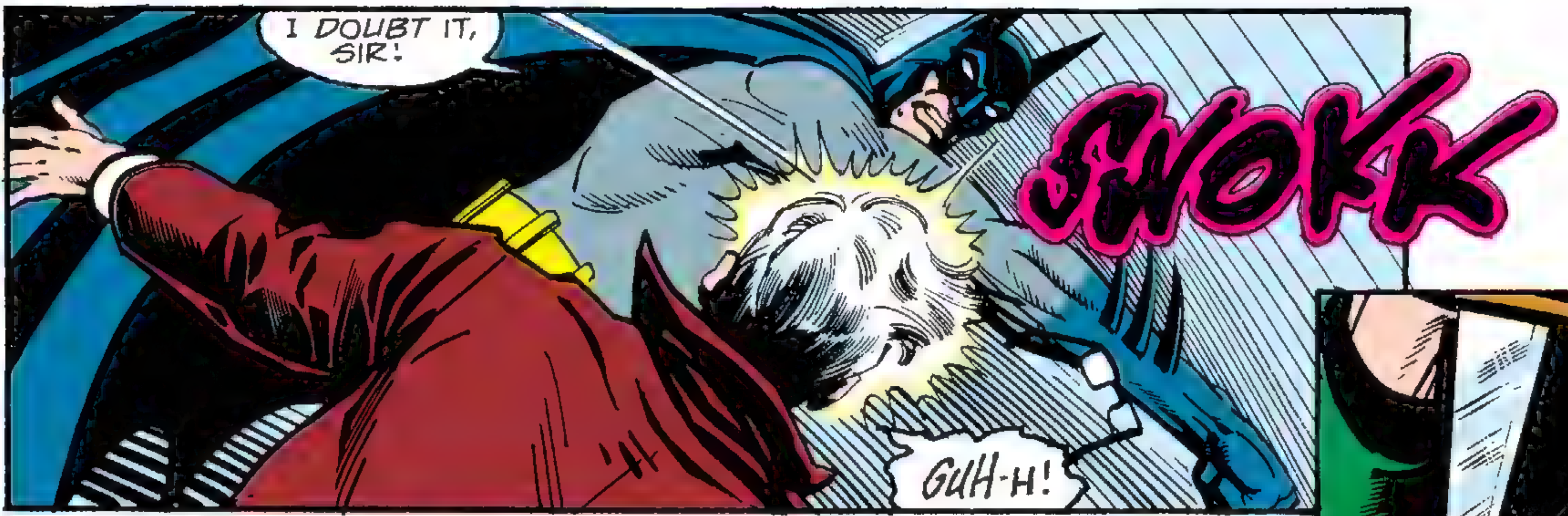
















FEAR, SIR!  
FEAR AND ALL  
IT BRINGS!

FEAR'S  
PLINGENT--

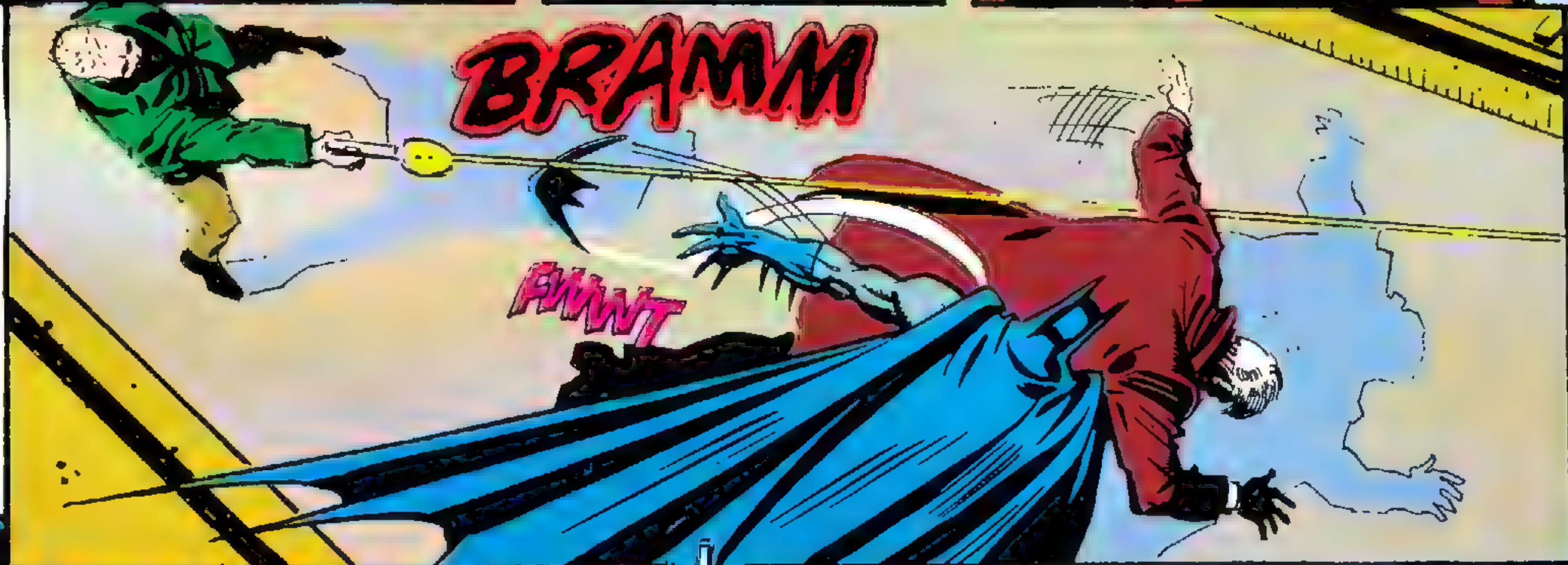


GET  
AWAY FROM  
HIM,  
GORDON!



WHOEVER YOU'RE  
SEEING, HE'S REALLY  
CORNELIUS  
STIRK!

S-STIRK?



BRAMM

FWWT



EXHAUSTED --  
TIMING'S OFF --  
MISSED THE  
GUN...

OOOPH!

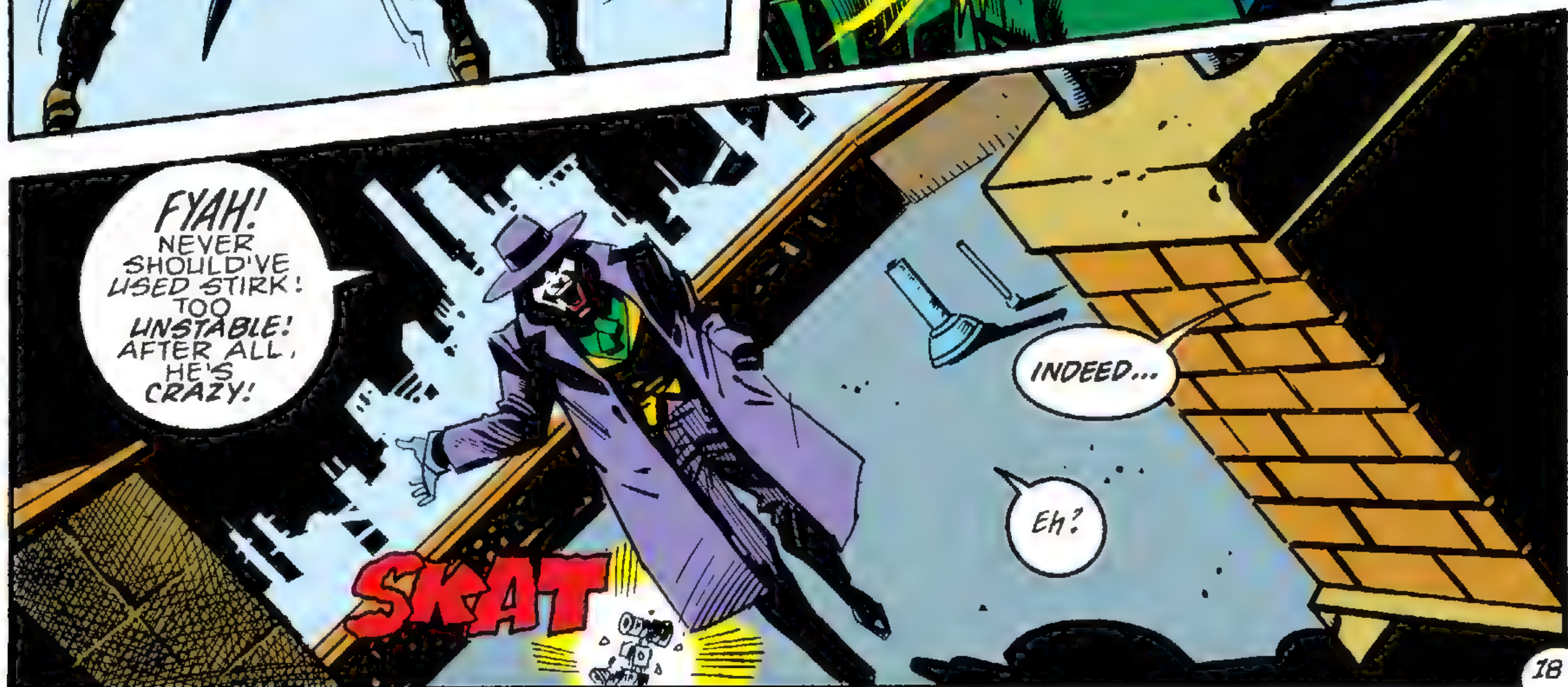
CHUFT



AND NOW  
BATS  
SHOWS  
UP!

WHAT AN  
UNMITIGATED  
DISASTER!













R-RED GRID...  
MANDALA... OF  
B-BLOOD...

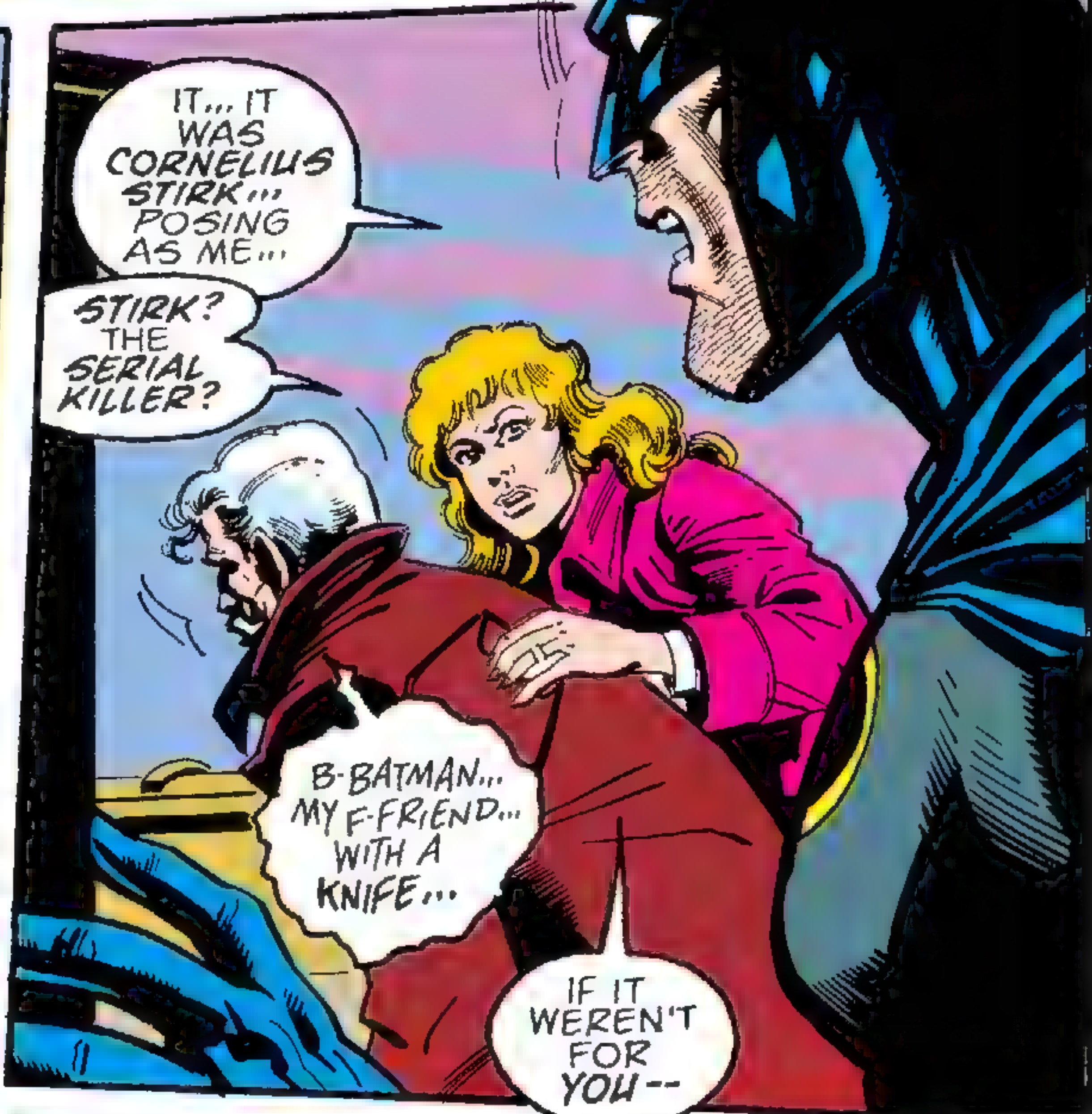
EASY, GORDON --  
IT'S JUST AN  
HYPNOTIC MIND-  
PLANT... HIS  
PSIONIC POWER  
PUT YOU  
INTO A --



RED  
GRIIIIID!!  
BATMAN  
KILLED  
MEEEEE!!

JAMES!

MY GOD,  
WHAT HAVE  
YOU DONE  
TO HIM!?!



IT... IT  
WAS  
CORNELIUS  
STIRK...  
POSING  
AS ME...

STIRK?  
THE  
SERIAL  
KILLER?

B-BATMAN...  
MY F-FRIEND...  
WITH A  
KNIFE...

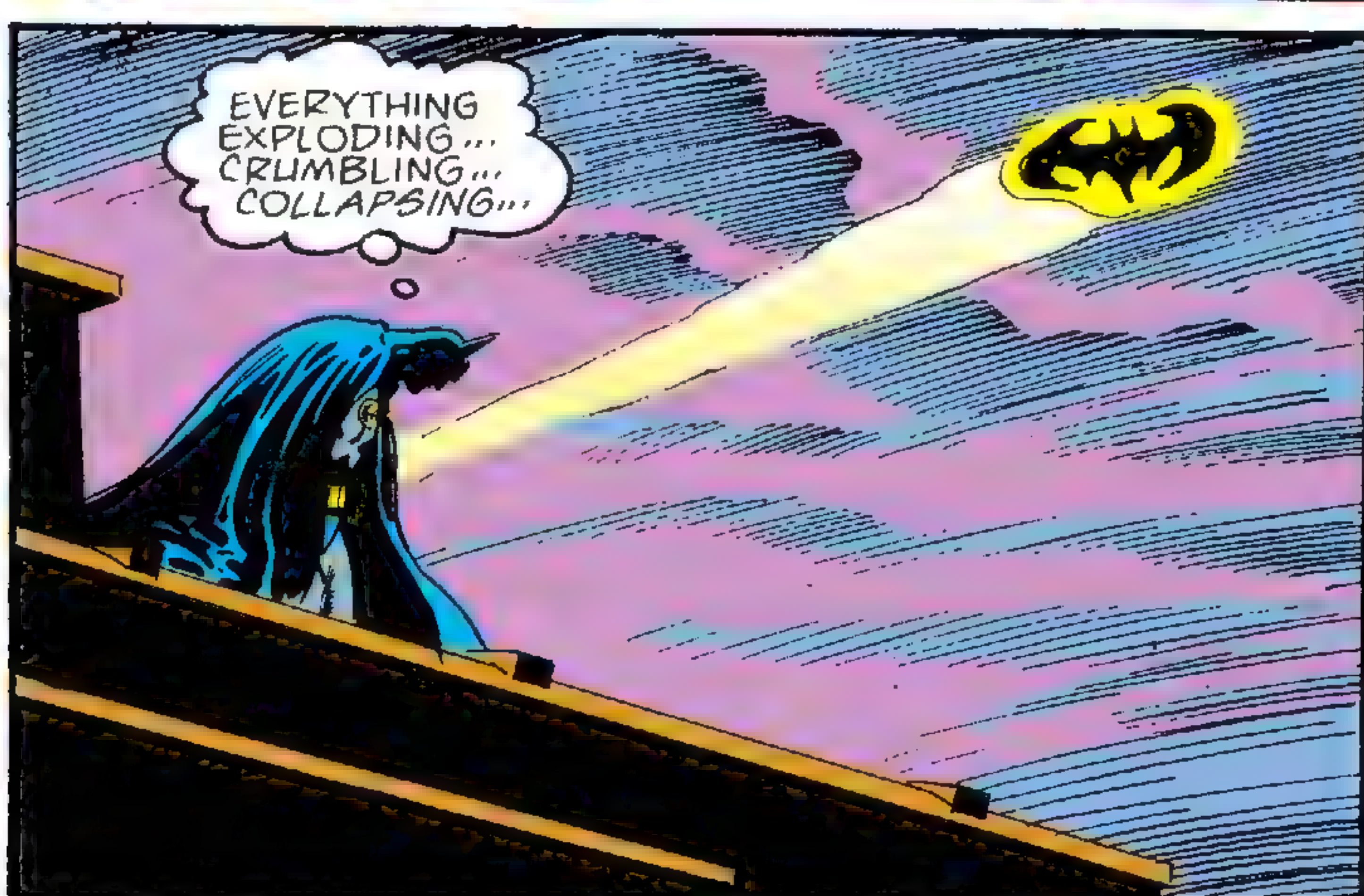
IF IT  
WEREN'T  
FOR  
YOU --



YOU'RE  
WRONG, MRS.  
GORDON --  
YOUR HUSBAND  
WAS THE  
TARGET,  
NOT ME.

JUST AS HE  
WAS IN THE  
HEADHUNTER  
INCIDENT --

--WHEN  
I TOLD YOU  
TO LEAVE  
US  
ALONE?!



EVERYTHING  
EXPLODING...  
CRUMBLING...  
COLLAPSING...



...AND THE  
BIG ONES...  
THE ONES  
LIKE TWO-  
FACE AND  
THE  
JOKER...

THEY  
HAVEN'T EVEN  
MADE THEIR  
MOVES YET!



**THE MAYOR'S MANSION, MASTER BEDROOM:**

NFFF...  
MMNN?  
?

M-MUST BE... A  
N- NIGHTMARE...  
N-NOT REAL...!

Ah... BUT WE ARE  
VERY REAL  
INDEED, MR.  
MAYOR...  
HYPER-  
REAL...

"... AS YOUR BODYGUARDS DOWNSTAIRS COULD READILY ATTEST -- WERE THEY STILL CAPABLE OF SPEECH."

N-NO ...  
P-P-POISONOUS!

WHAT'S  
POISONOUS,  
MR. MAYOR?  
WHAT ARE YOU  
SEEING?  
WHAT'S YOUR  
GREATEST  
FEAR?

SPIDERS?  
SNAKES?

BAD  
SUSHI?

21







KNIGHTFALL™

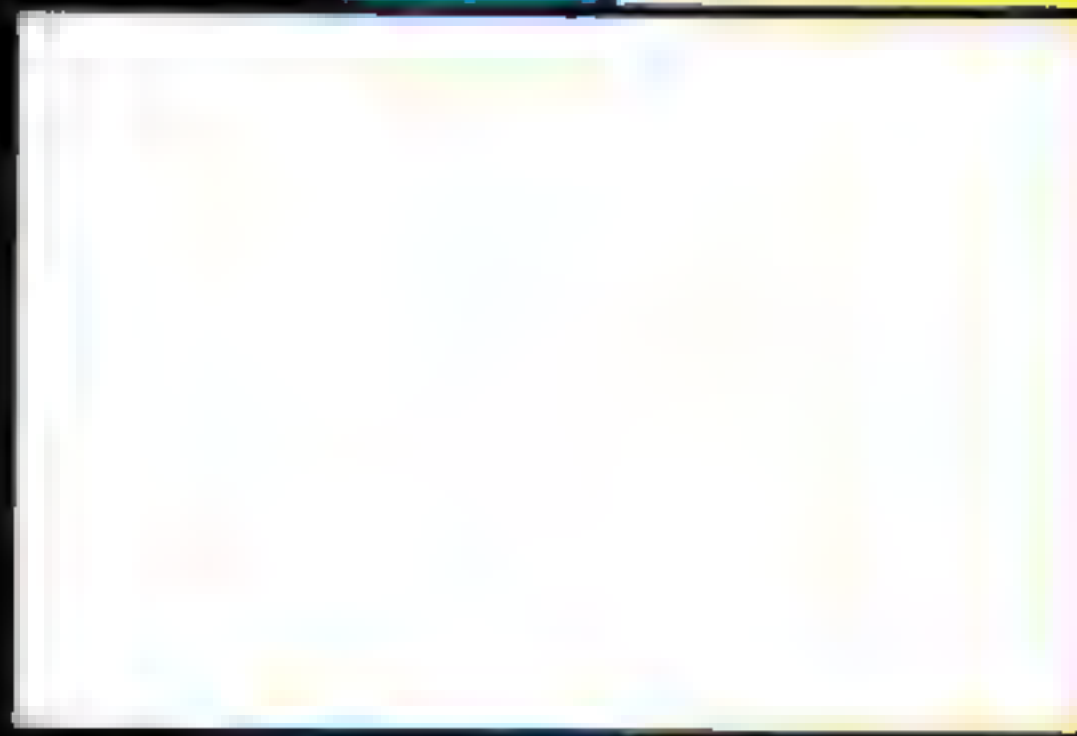


661  
EARLY  
JUNE 93

APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE  
AUTHORITY

DETECTIVE COMICS.  
FEATURING

BATMAN







Cover art by  
**KELLEY JONES**



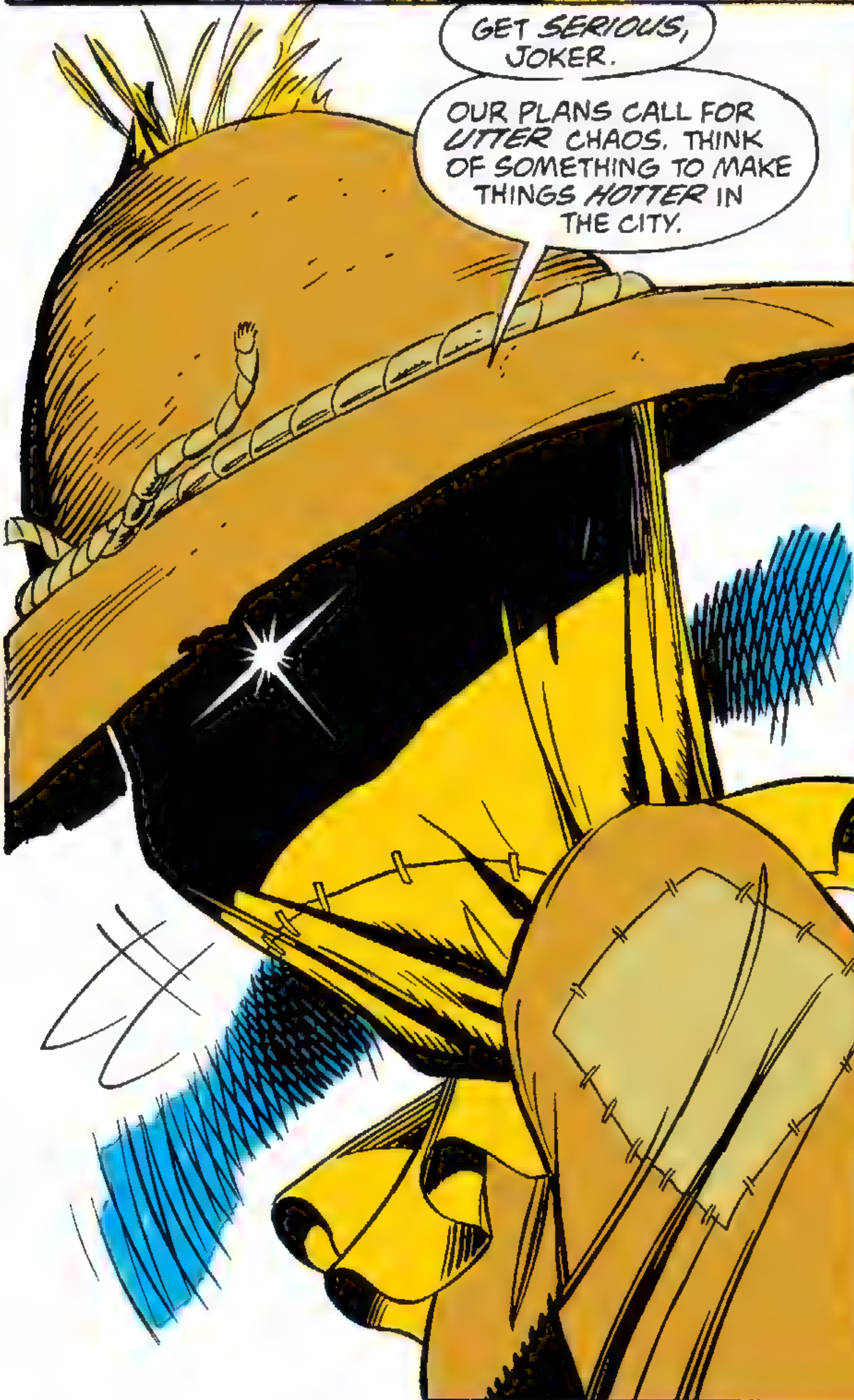
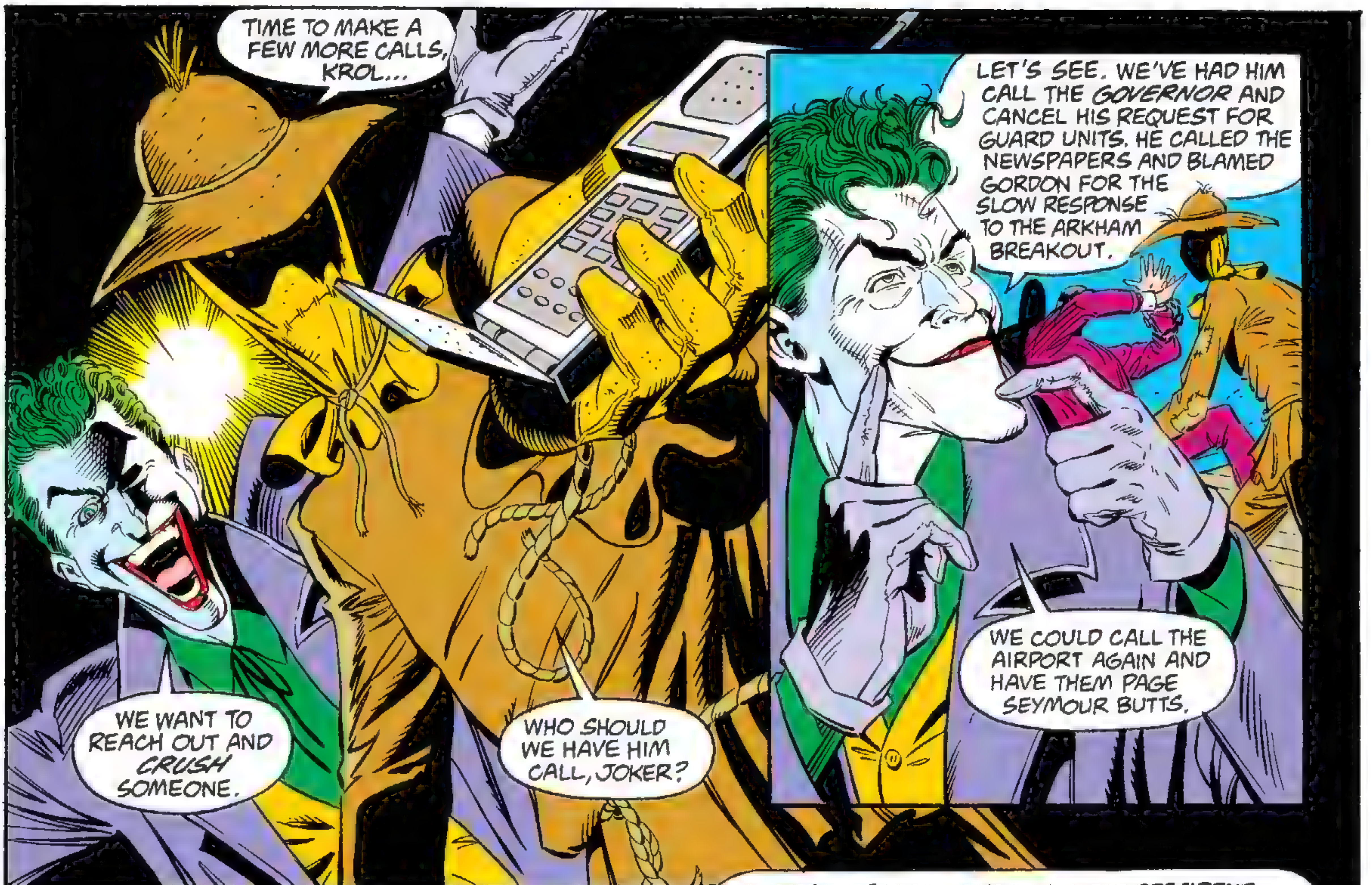


CHUCK DIXON . GRAHAM NOLAN . SCOTT HANNA  
writer penciller inker

ADRIENNE ROY . JOHN COSTANZA . SCOTT PETERSON  
colorist letterer and

• BATMAN created by BOB KANE . DENNIS O'NEIL  
editors



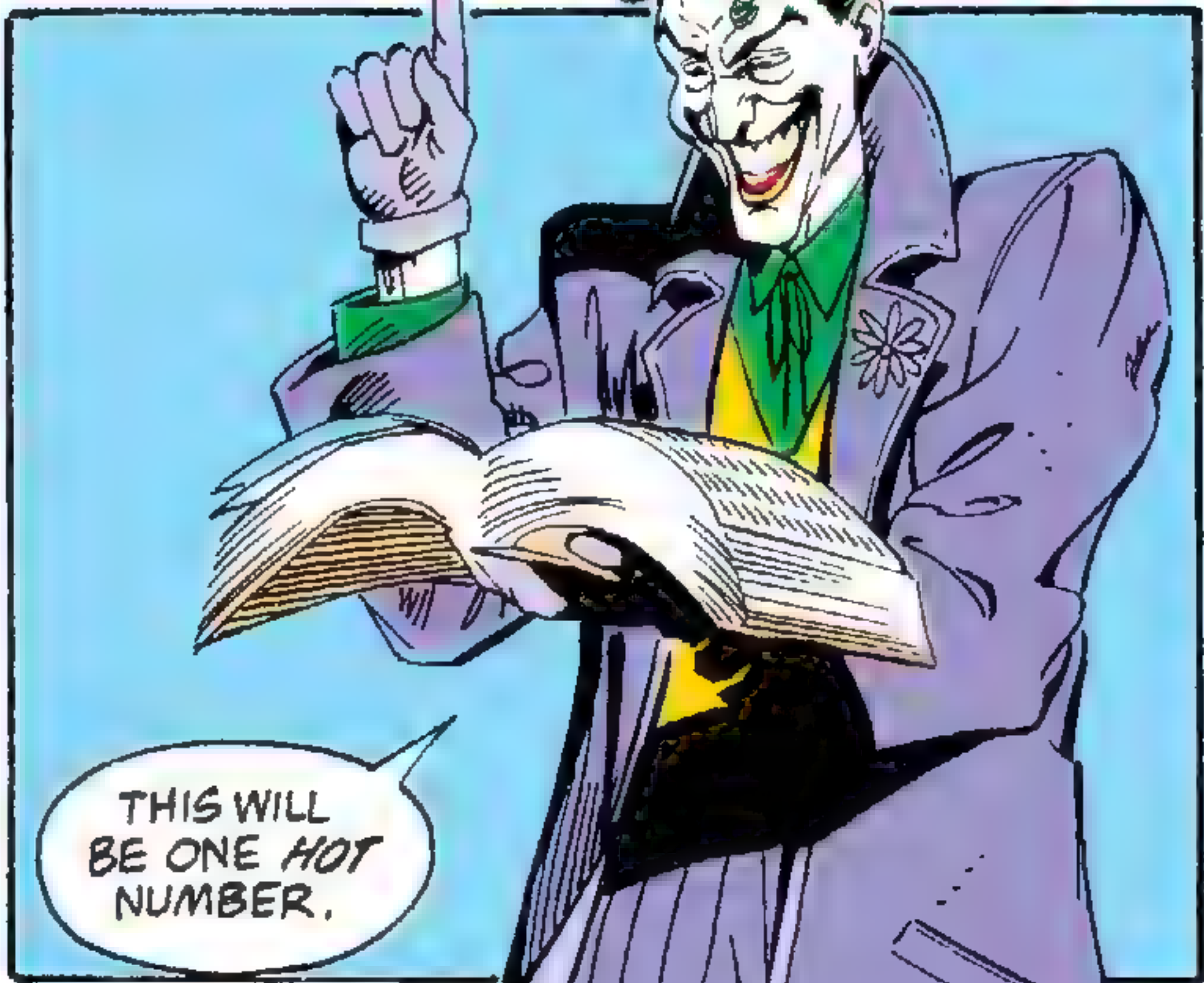






ALL RIGHT.

I'LL CALL.



THIS WILL BE ONE HOT NUMBER.

"HE CALLS HIMSELF THE FIREFLY. HIS REAL NAME IS GARFIELD LYNN."



"IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE THEY LOCKED HIM AWAY IN ARKHAM THAT I ALMOST FORGOT HIM."

"ALMOST."



"HE USED TO WORK IN THE MOVIES, AN EXPERT IN PYROTECHNICS."

"HIS OCCUPATION HID HIS REAL OBSESSION."

"PYROMANIA."

"BEING HOLLYWOOD'S MASTER OF EXPLOSION AND FIRE EFFECTS WASN'T ENOUGH FOR HIM."

SO BEAUTIFUL...

YOU DANCE SO GRACEFULLY... SO LOVELY...

"HE TURNED TO ARSON FOR PROFIT."

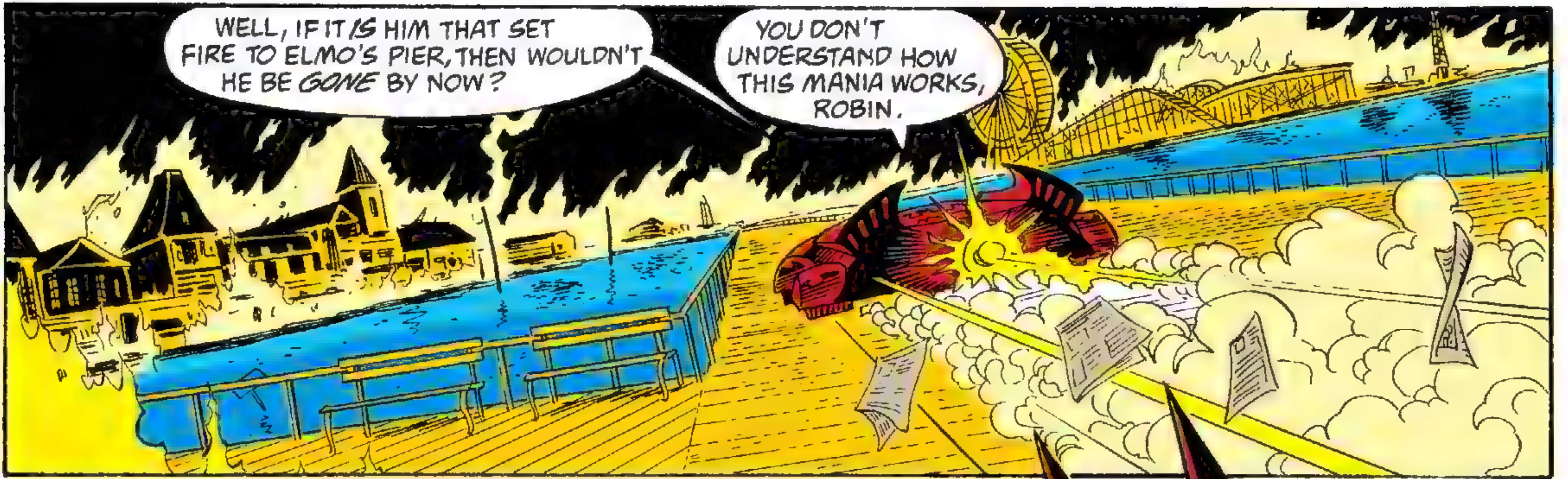
YES... YES...

"AND THEN ARSON FOR PLEASURE."

YES! YES!

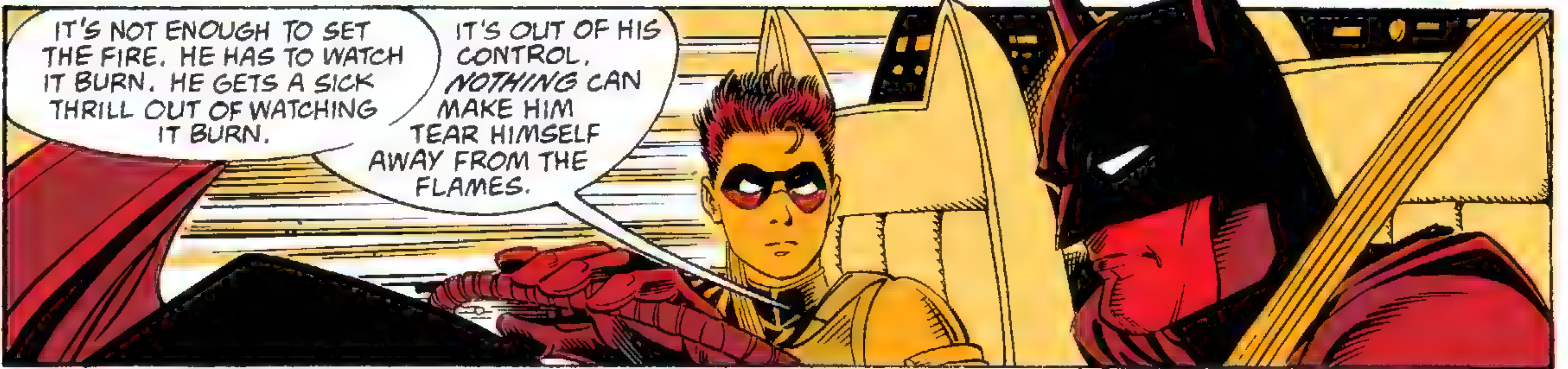
DANCE!





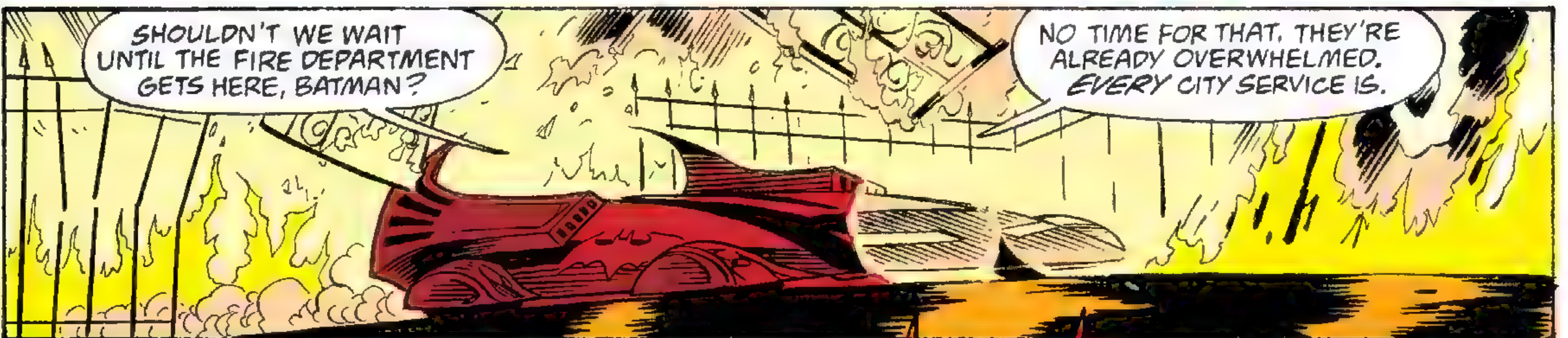
WELL, IF IT *IS* HIM THAT SET FIRE TO ELMO'S PIER, THEN WOULDN'T HE BE *GONE* BY NOW?

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW THIS MANIA WORKS, ROBIN.



IT'S NOT ENOUGH TO SET THE FIRE. HE HAS TO WATCH IT BURN. HE GETS A SICK THRILL OUT OF WATCHING IT BURN.

IT'S OUT OF HIS CONTROL. *NOTHING* CAN MAKE HIM TEAR HIMSELF AWAY FROM THE FLAMES.



SHOULDN'T WE WAIT UNTIL THE FIRE DEPARTMENT GETS HERE, BATMAN?

NO TIME FOR THAT. THEY'RE ALREADY OVERWHELMED. *EVERY* CITY SERVICE IS.



IT'S UP TO ME.

YOU MEAN US.

I'M TAKING THIS ONE ALONE.



I DON'T LIKE THIS.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO. YOU BARELY ESCAPED KILLER CROC AND THAT MONSTER BANE. YOUR LUCK CAN'T HOLD FOREVER.

AND YOURS CAN?





STAY WITH  
THE CAR.

THE PIER BECOMES  
A BLAST FURNACE.

A BLISTERING WIND  
BEGINS TO SWIRL.



I LEAP INTO A FIRESTORM.

WELCOME TO  
MY INFERNO,  
BATMAN. ISN'T  
IT LOVELY?

GIVE IT UP, LYNNS.  
THERE'S NO WAY DOWN  
FROM HERE UNLESS  
IT'S WITH ME.



STILL THE  
ARROGANT  
ONE, EH?

WELL, YOU'RE  
NOT TAKING ME AS  
EASILY AS YOU  
DID BEFORE.

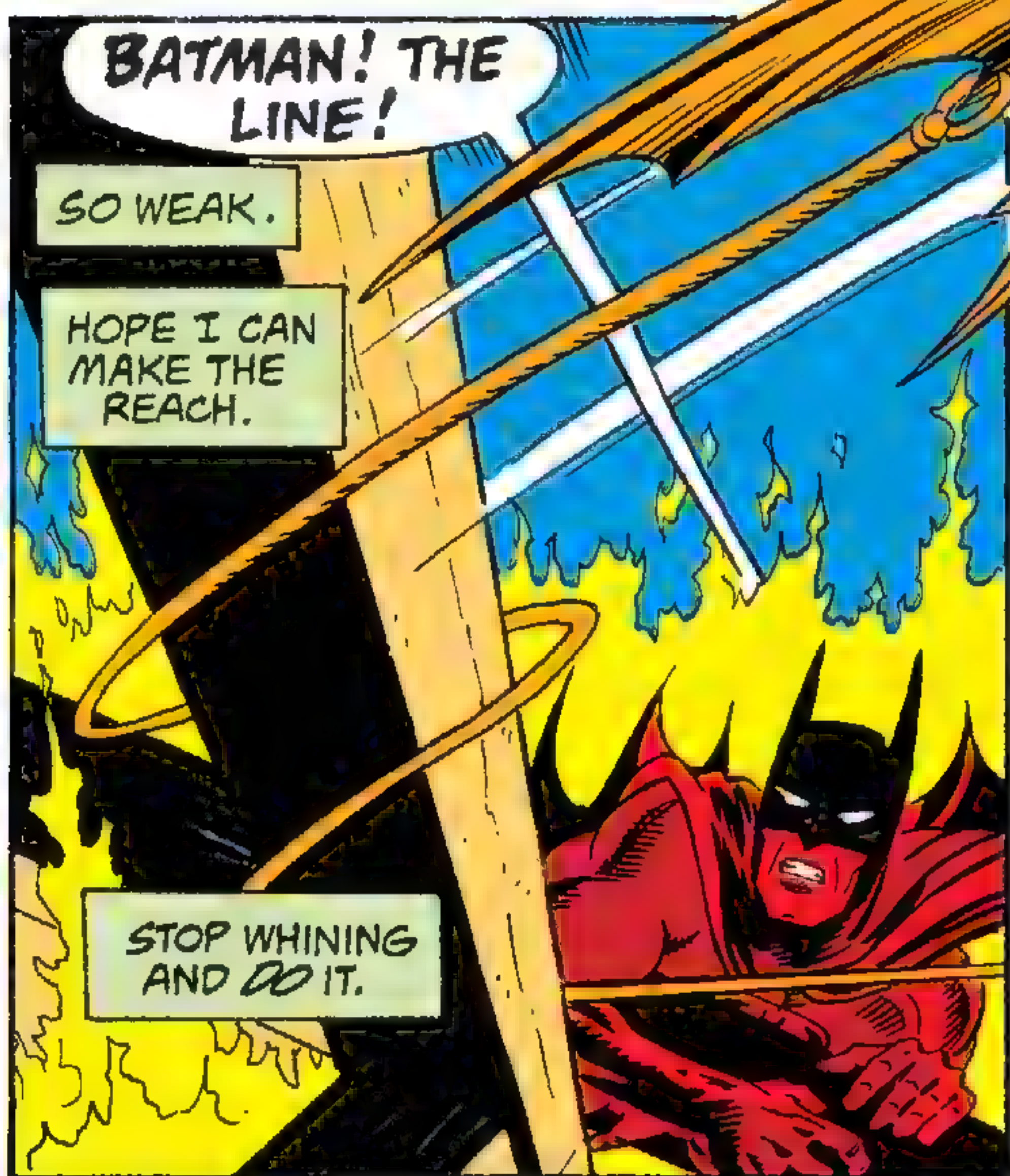
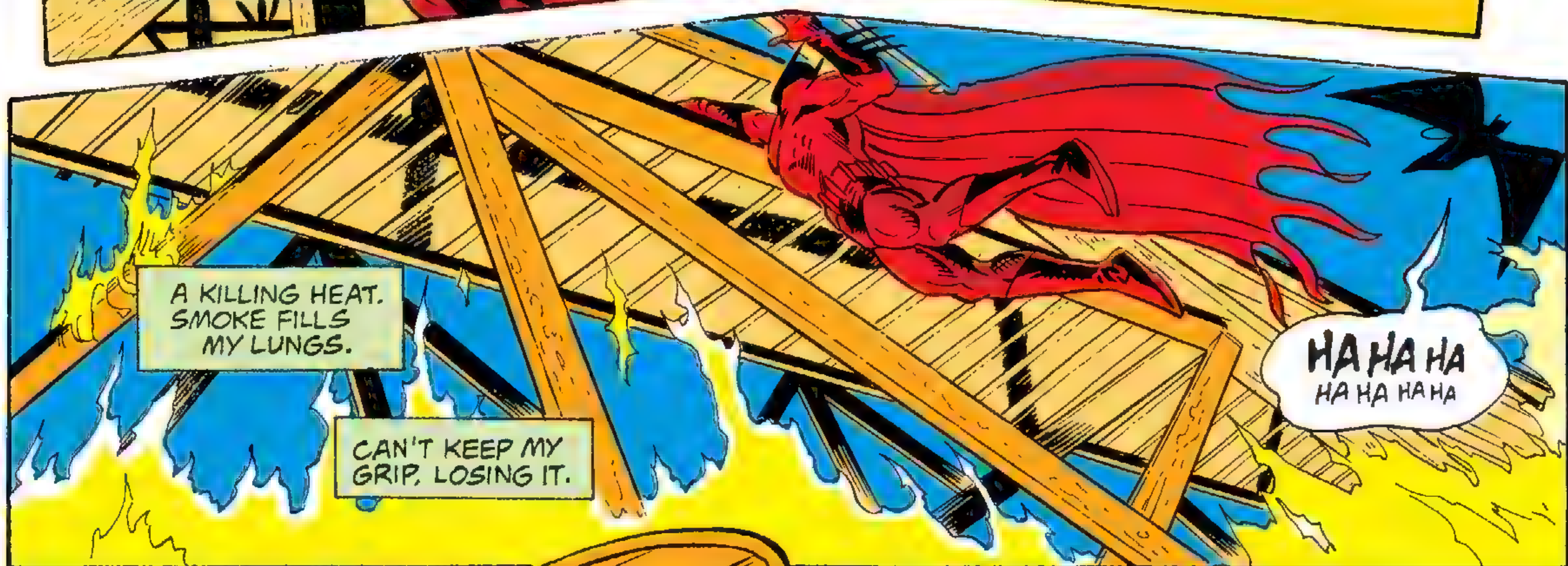




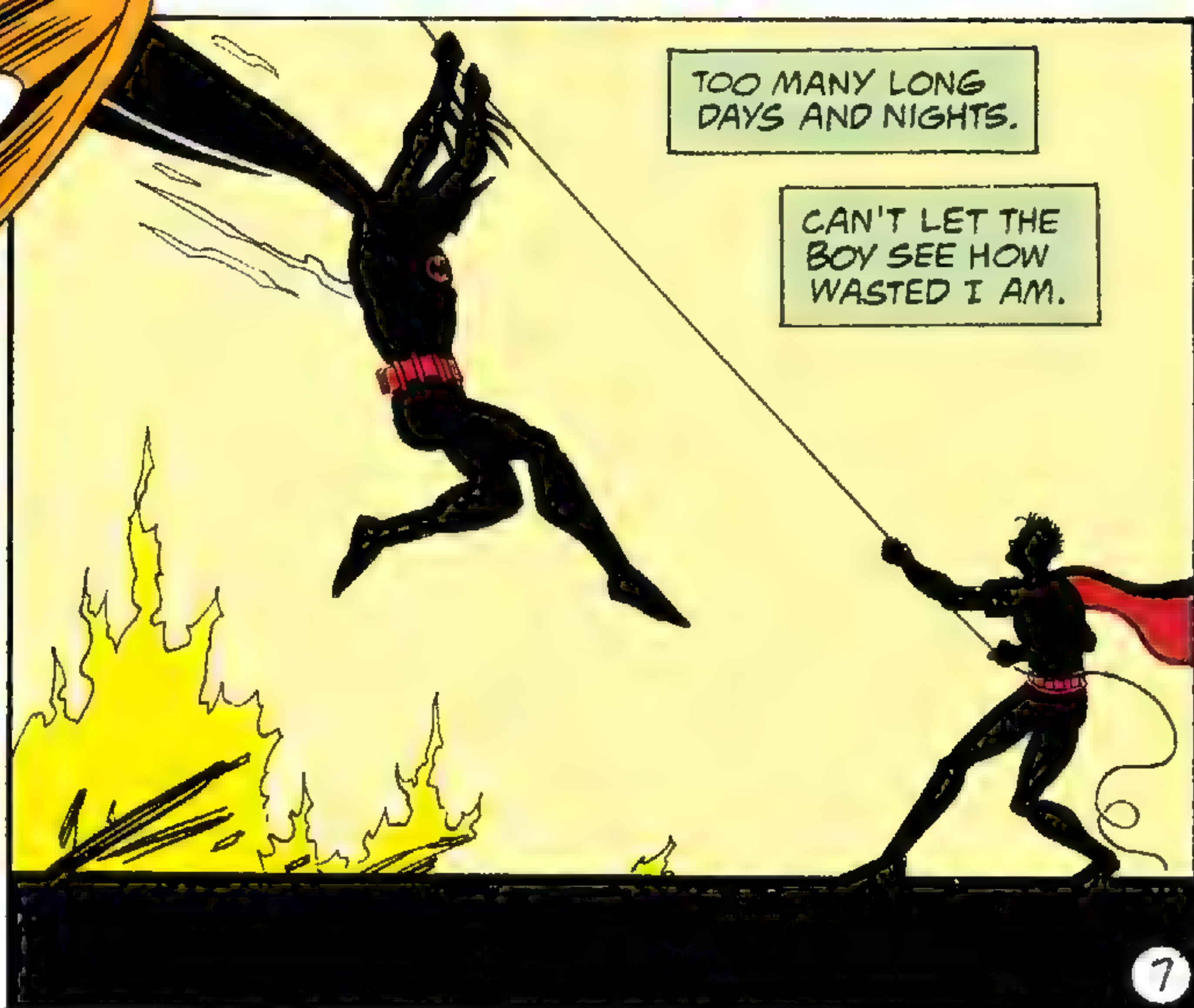
THE WINGS ARE NEW. THE HOT THERMALS LIFT HIM.



WHOA!

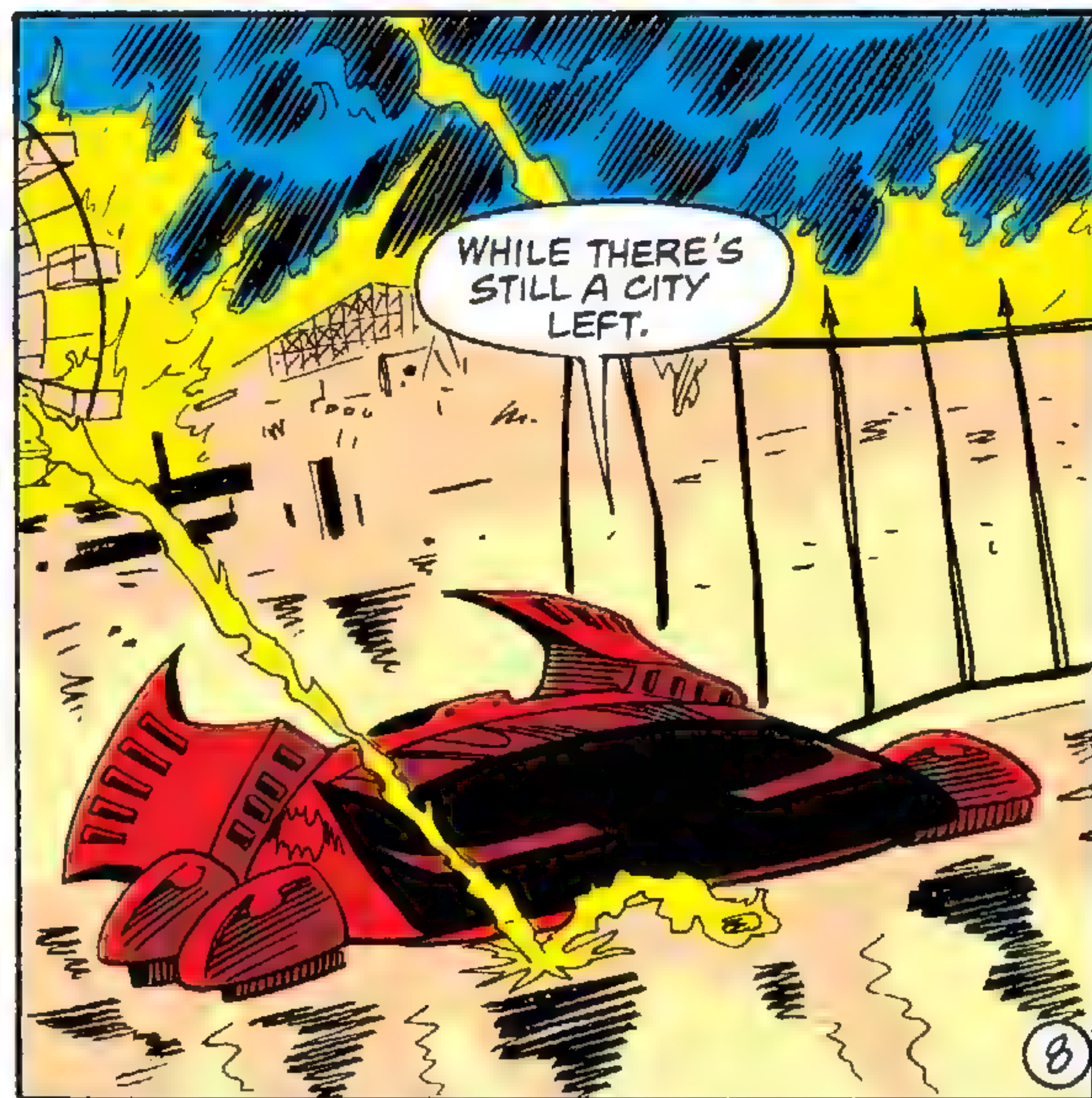
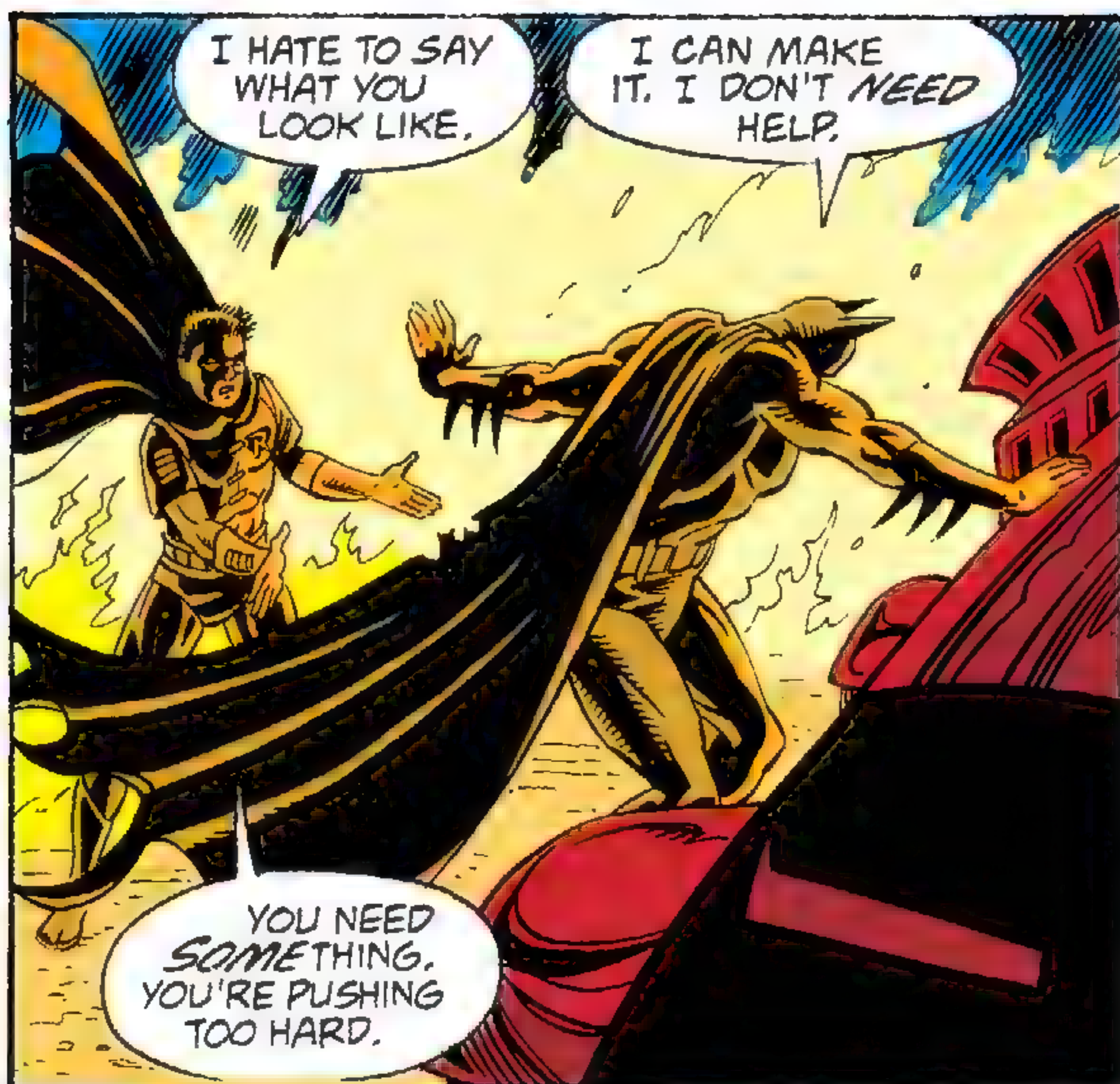


STOP WHINING AND DO IT.

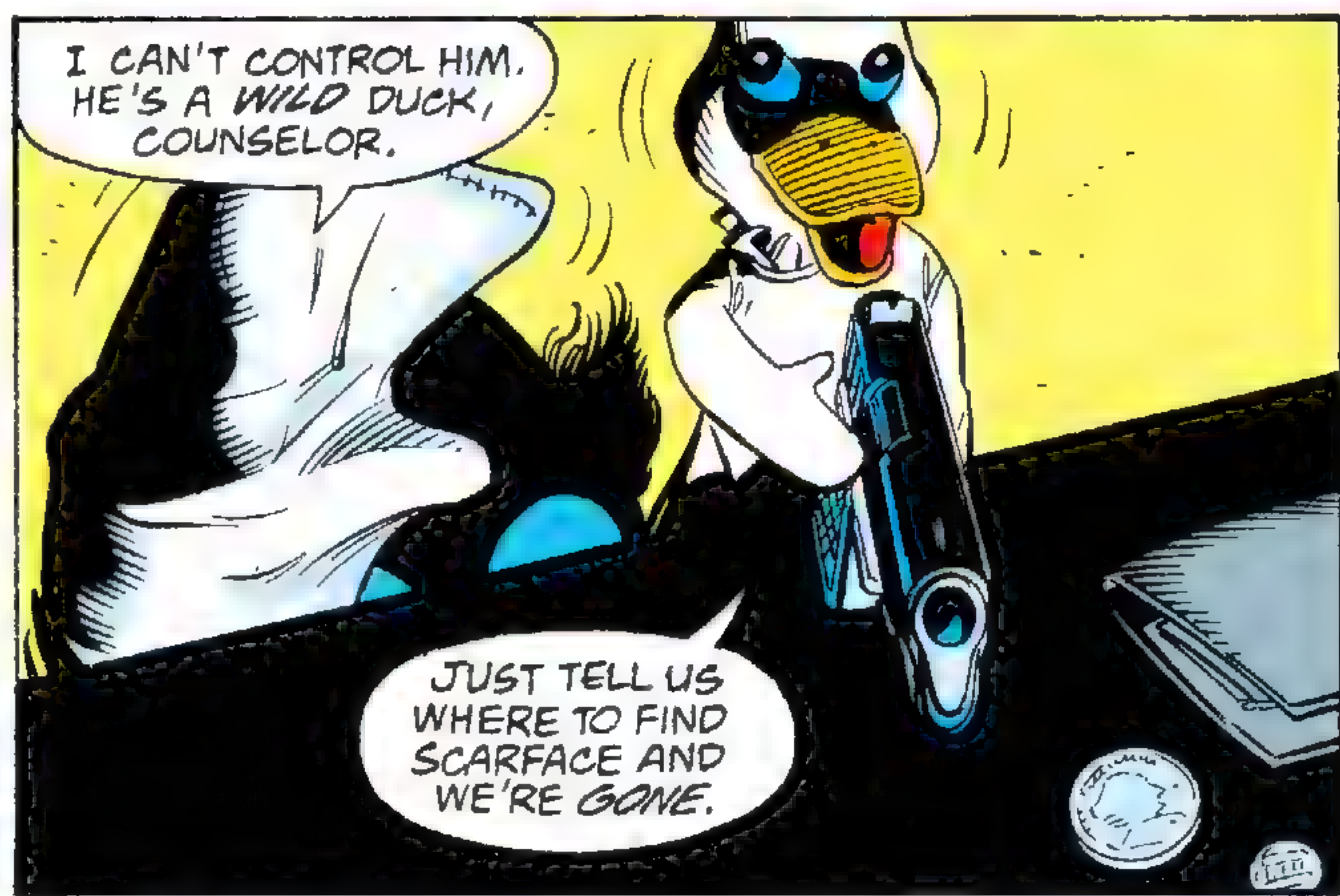
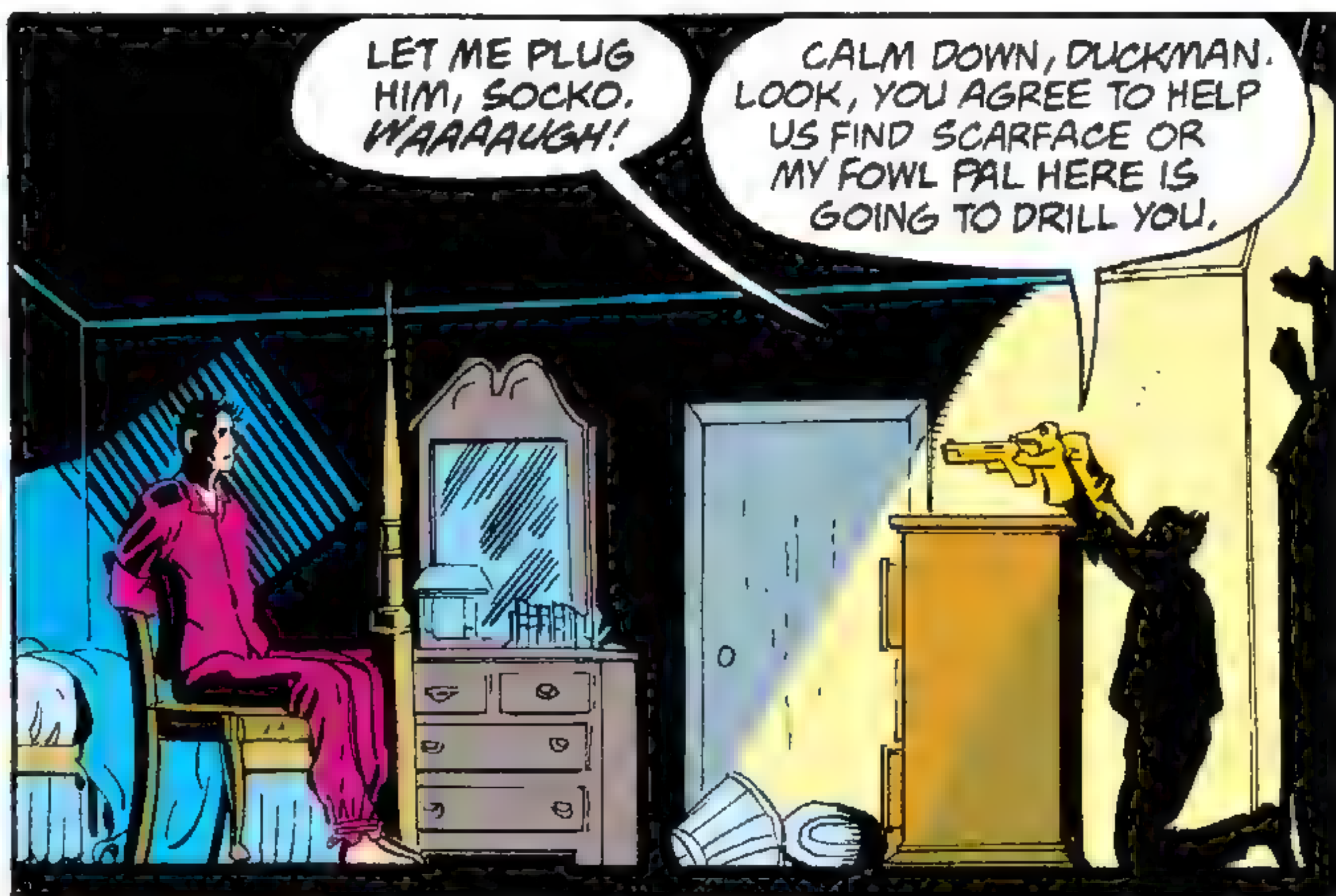
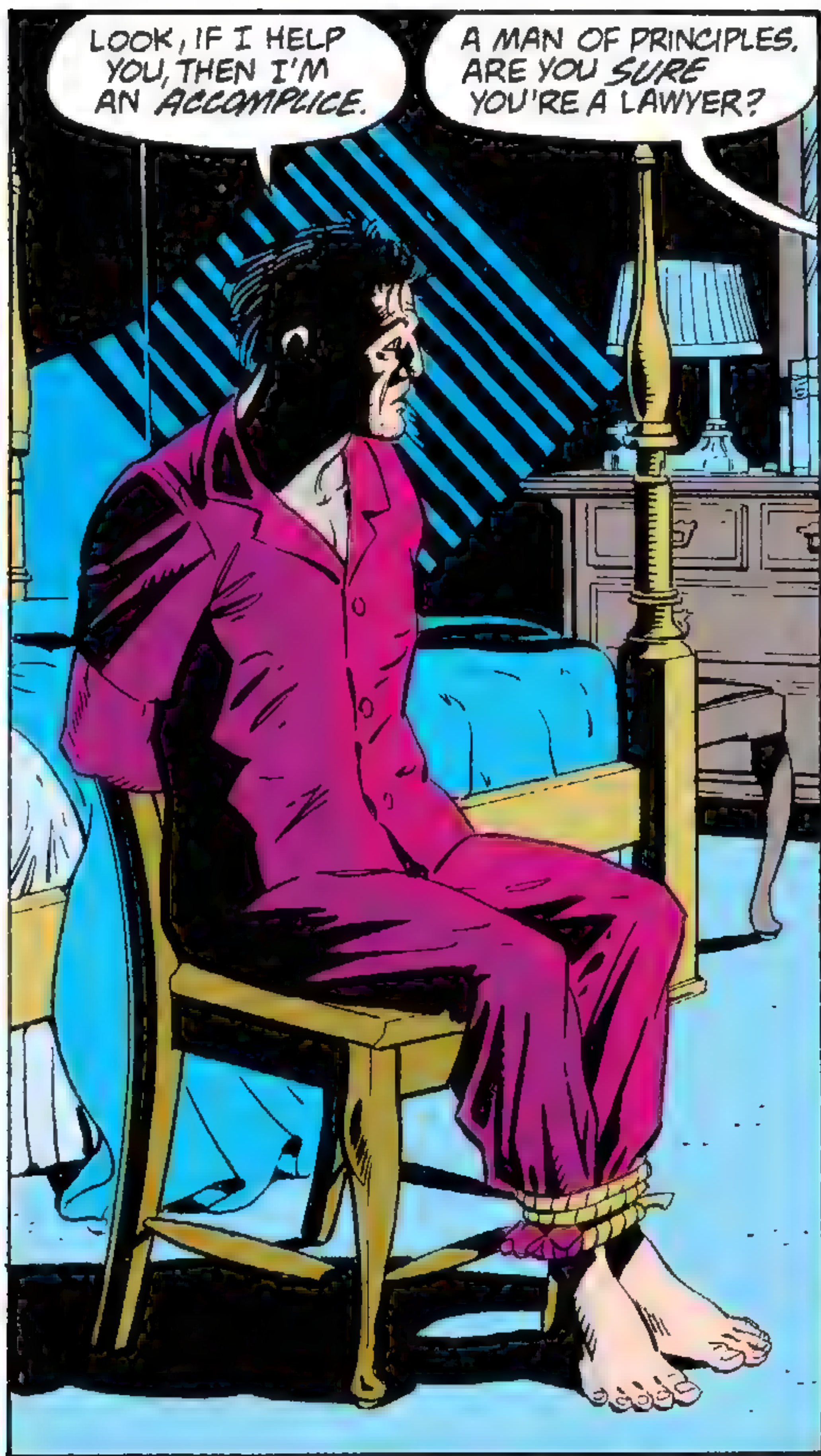


CAN'T LET THE BOY SEE HOW WASTED I AM.

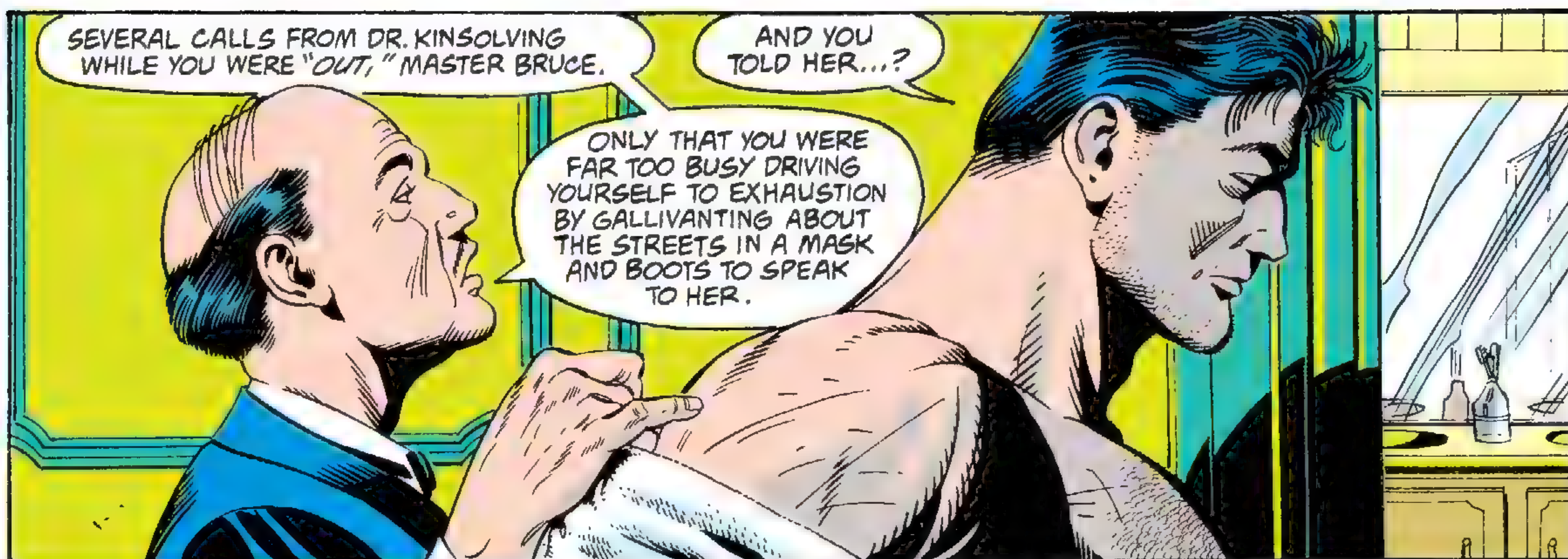
















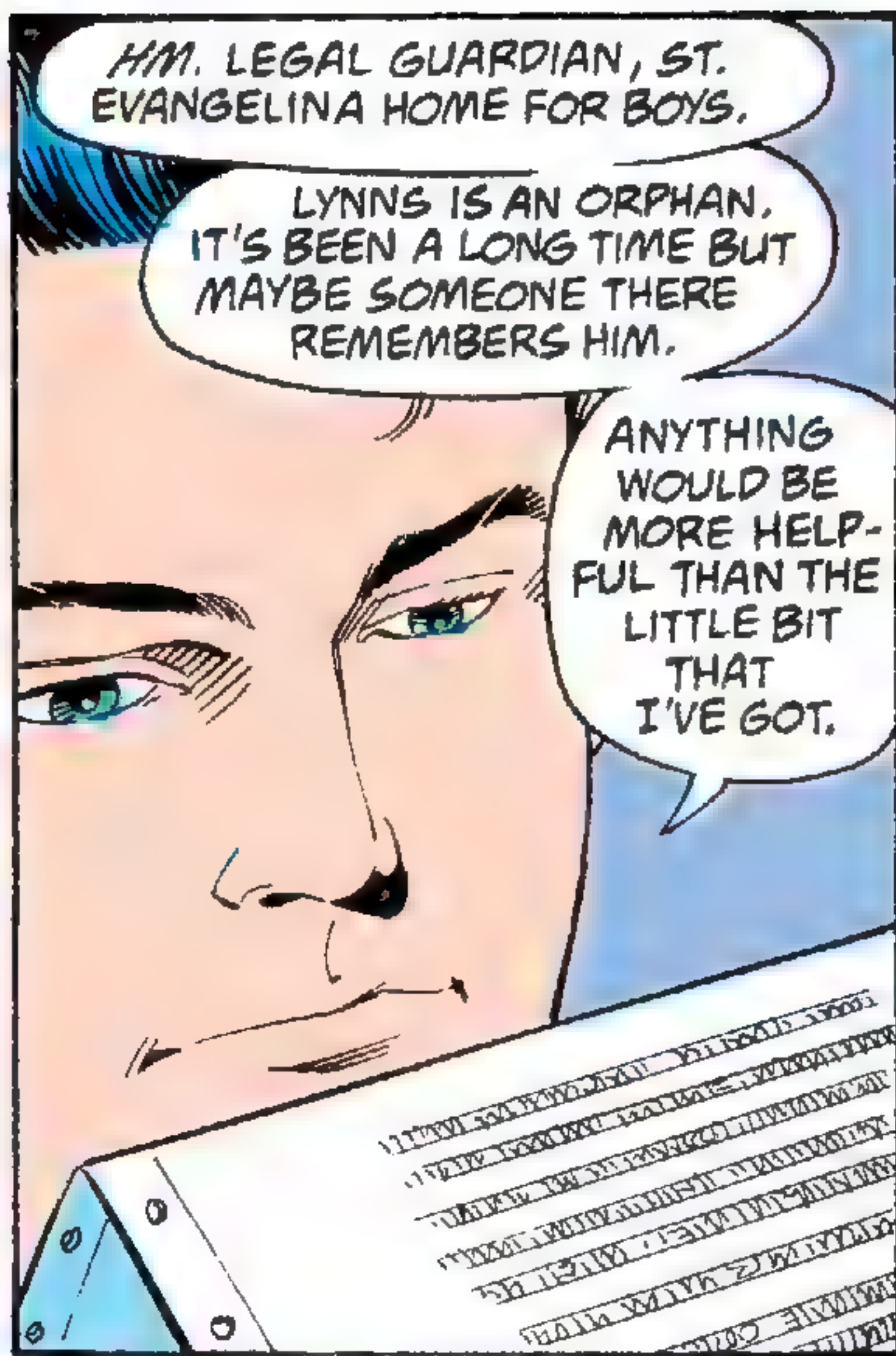
GARFIELD LYNNS. HE'S BEEN LOCKED UP SO LONG THAT THERE'S NOT MUCH IN THE NETWORKS ABOUT HIM.

NOTHING AT DMV. NO CREDIT HISTORY. NOTHING FROM ARKHAM SINCE THE PLACE GOT NUKED. HE'S A BLANK SLATE EXCEPT FOR HIS POLICE FILE.



ARREST RECORD GOES BACK TO JUVIE. MULTIPLE COUNTS OF ARSON AND RECKLESS ENDANGERMENT. EVEN AN ATTEMPTED HOMICIDE.

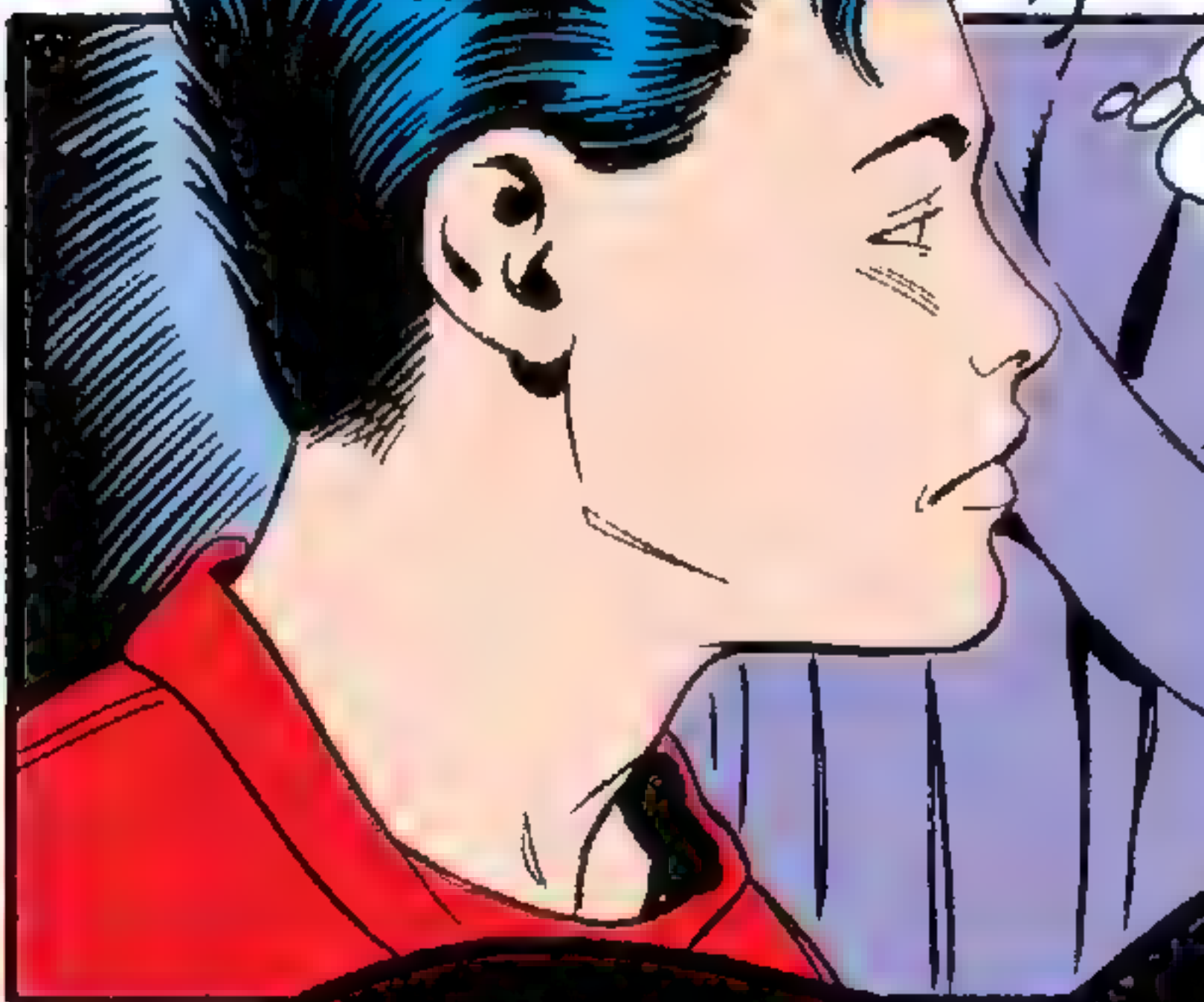
NO NAMES LISTED FOR HIS PARENTS.



H.M. LEGAL GUARDIAN, ST. EVANGELINA HOME FOR BOYS.

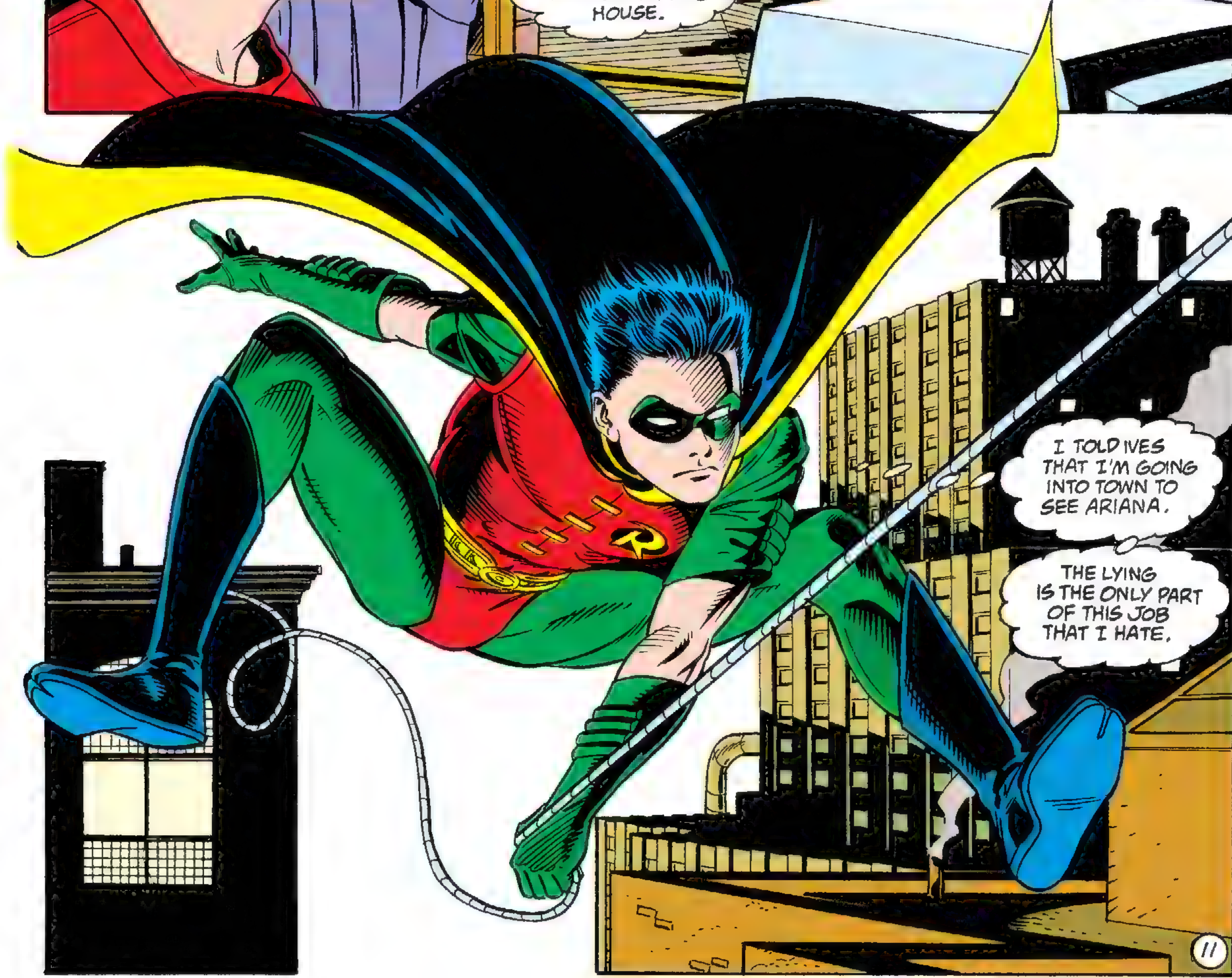
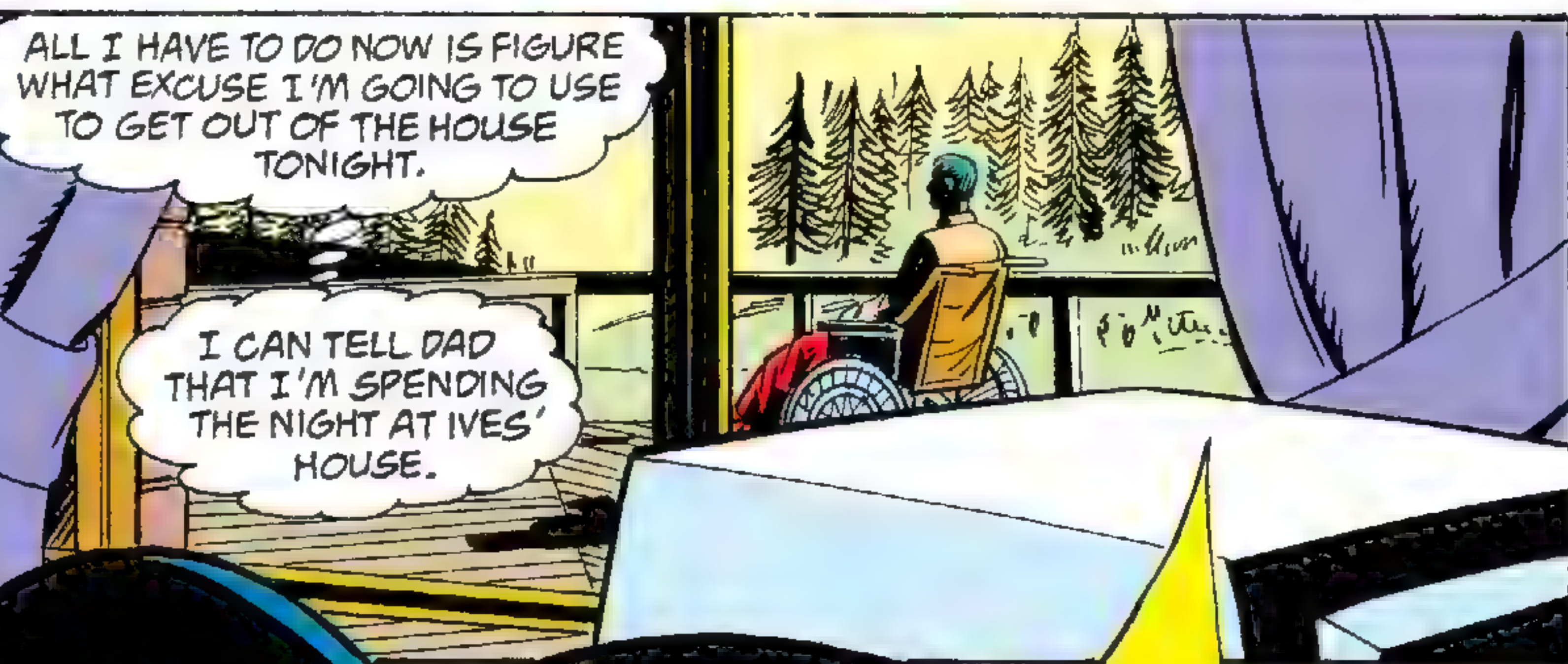
LYNNS IS AN ORPHAN. IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME BUT MAYBE SOMEONE THERE REMEMBERS HIM.

ANYTHING WOULD BE MORE HELPFUL THAN THE LITTLE BIT THAT I'VE GOT.



ALL I HAVE TO DO NOW IS FIGURE WHAT EXCUSE I'M GOING TO USE TO GET OUT OF THE HOUSE TONIGHT.

I CAN TELL DAD THAT I'M SPENDING THE NIGHT AT IVES' HOUSE.



I TOLD IVES THAT I'M GOING INTO TOWN TO SEE ARIANA.

THE LYING IS THE ONLY PART OF THIS JOB THAT I HATE.





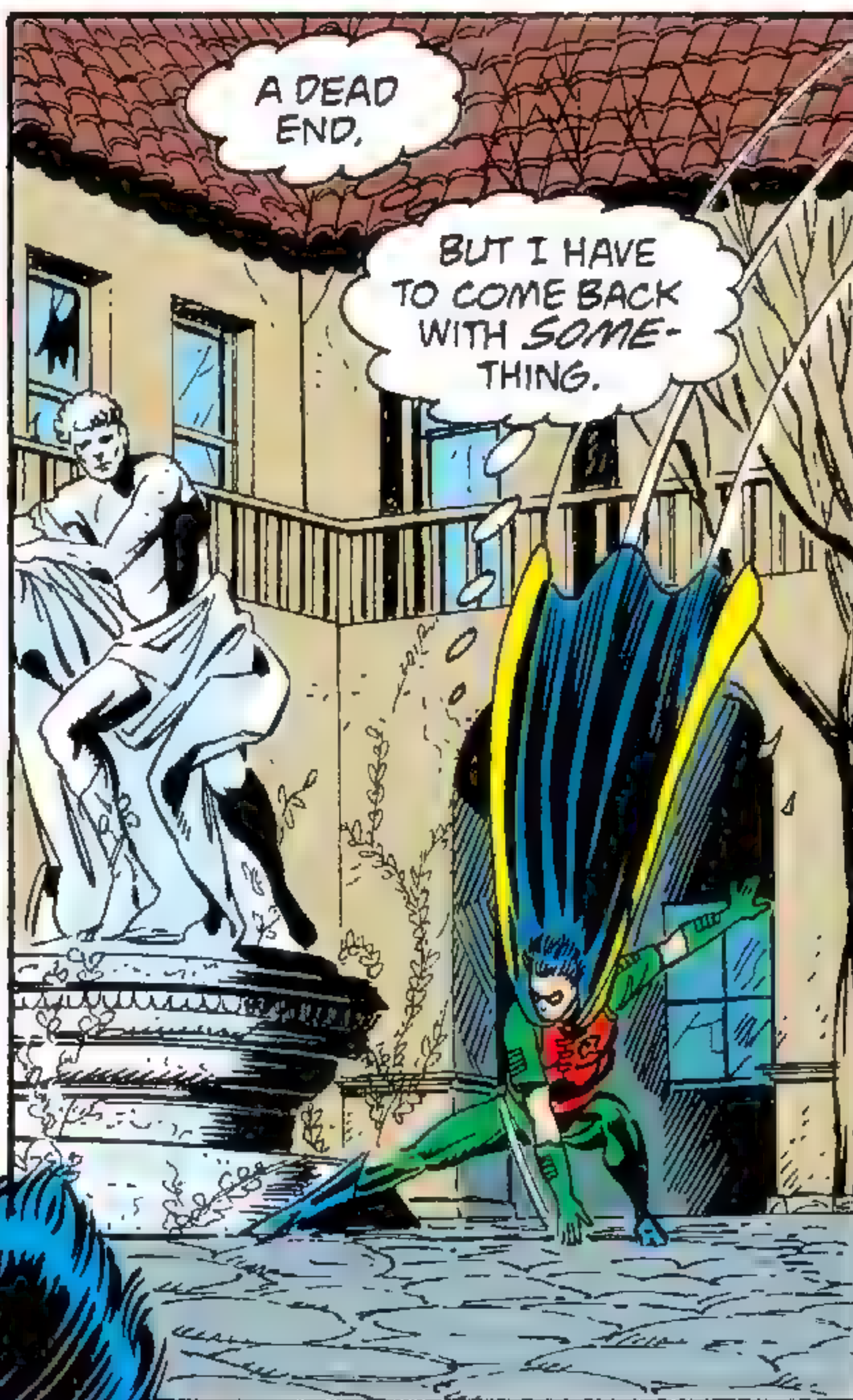
THAT AND THE LONG HOURS.

BUT HOW CAN I COMPLAIN WHEN BATMAN IS PUSHING HIMSELF SO HARD?



NO LUCK.

THIS PLACE HAS BEEN CLOSED FOR AGES.



A DEAD END.

BUT I HAVE TO COME BACK WITH SOMETHING.



QUIET HERE.

MAYBE THE ONLY PEACEFUL PLACE IN ALL OF GOTHAM.



IS SOMEONE THERE?

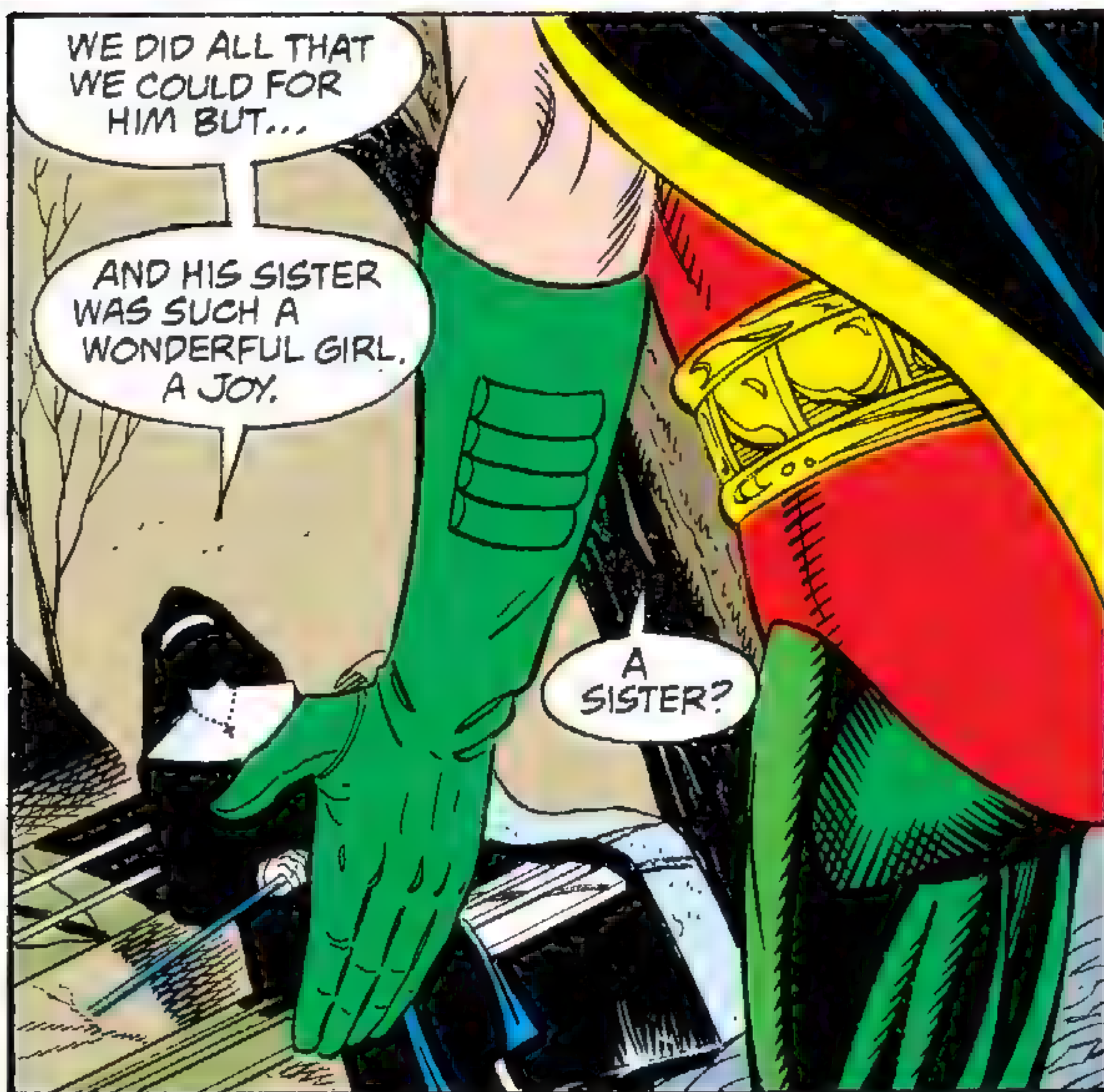
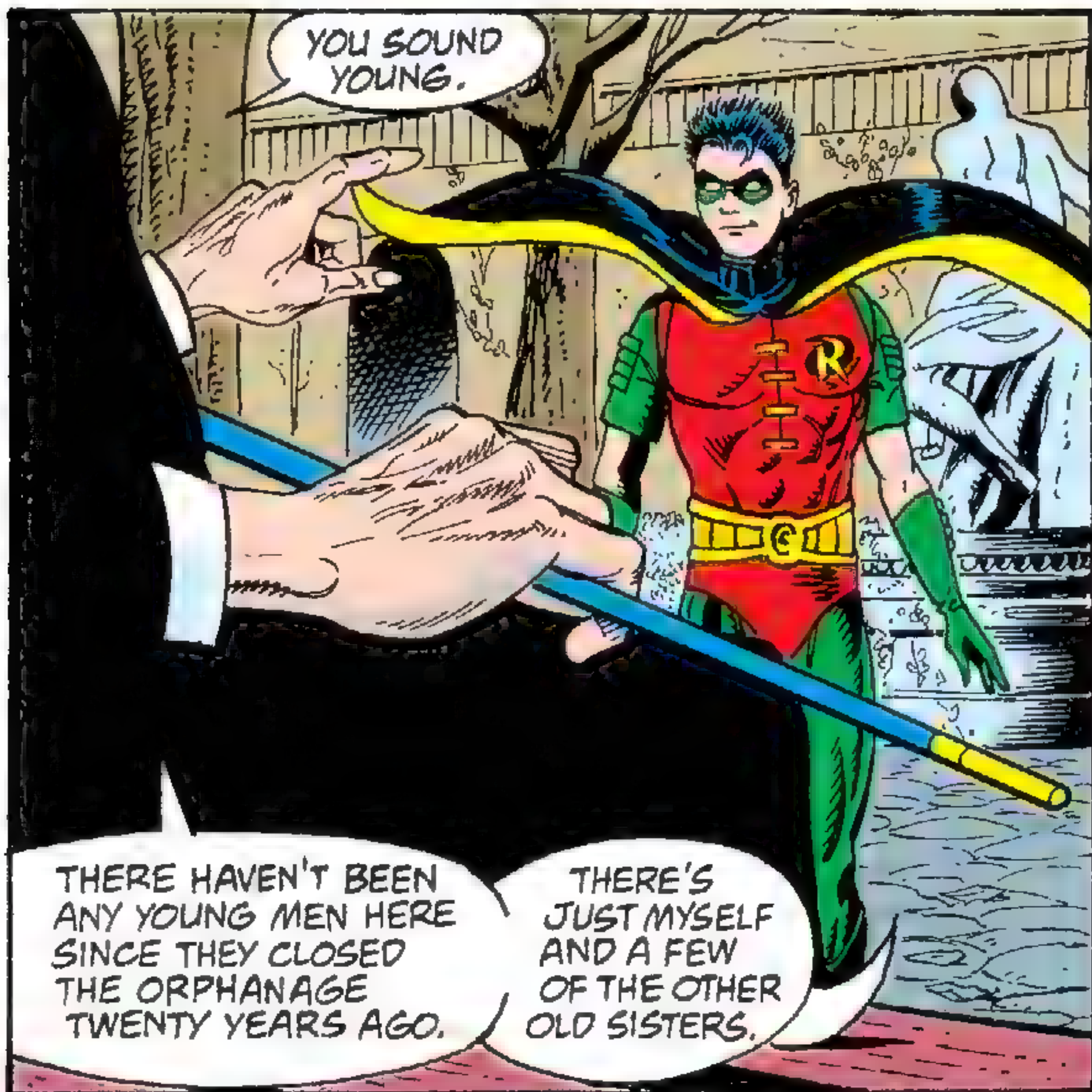
UH?



UH... I'M SORRY IF I BOTHERED YOU.

NO BOTHER. I'M JUST NOT USED TO SHARING THE COURTYARD WITH ANYONE.







--AND POWER HAS YET TO BE RESTORED TO LYNTOWN, EASTOWN OR SHELDON PARK.

**HOT TOWN TONIGHT?**



WE NOW JOIN THE LINK RAMBEAU SHOW, ALREADY IN PROGRESS.



LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT, DOC. YOU'RE SAYING THAT IT'S OUR FAULT THAT THESE SQUIRRELS ARE TEARING OUR CITY APART?

ABSOLUTELY. OUR ENTIRE CULTURE IS ABERRANT.

THESE DANGEROUS INDIVIDUALS NOW CAUSING SUCH AN INCONVENIENCE ARE MERELY SYMPTOMS OF THAT ABERRATION.



"AN INCONVENIENCE." WE HAVE A BODY COUNT RIVALING SARAJEVO. PARTS OF THE CITY BURN OUT OF CONTROL. LAWLESSNESS AND CHAOS ARE THE ORDER OF THE DAY.

AND WE ENCOURAGE THIS, RIGHT?



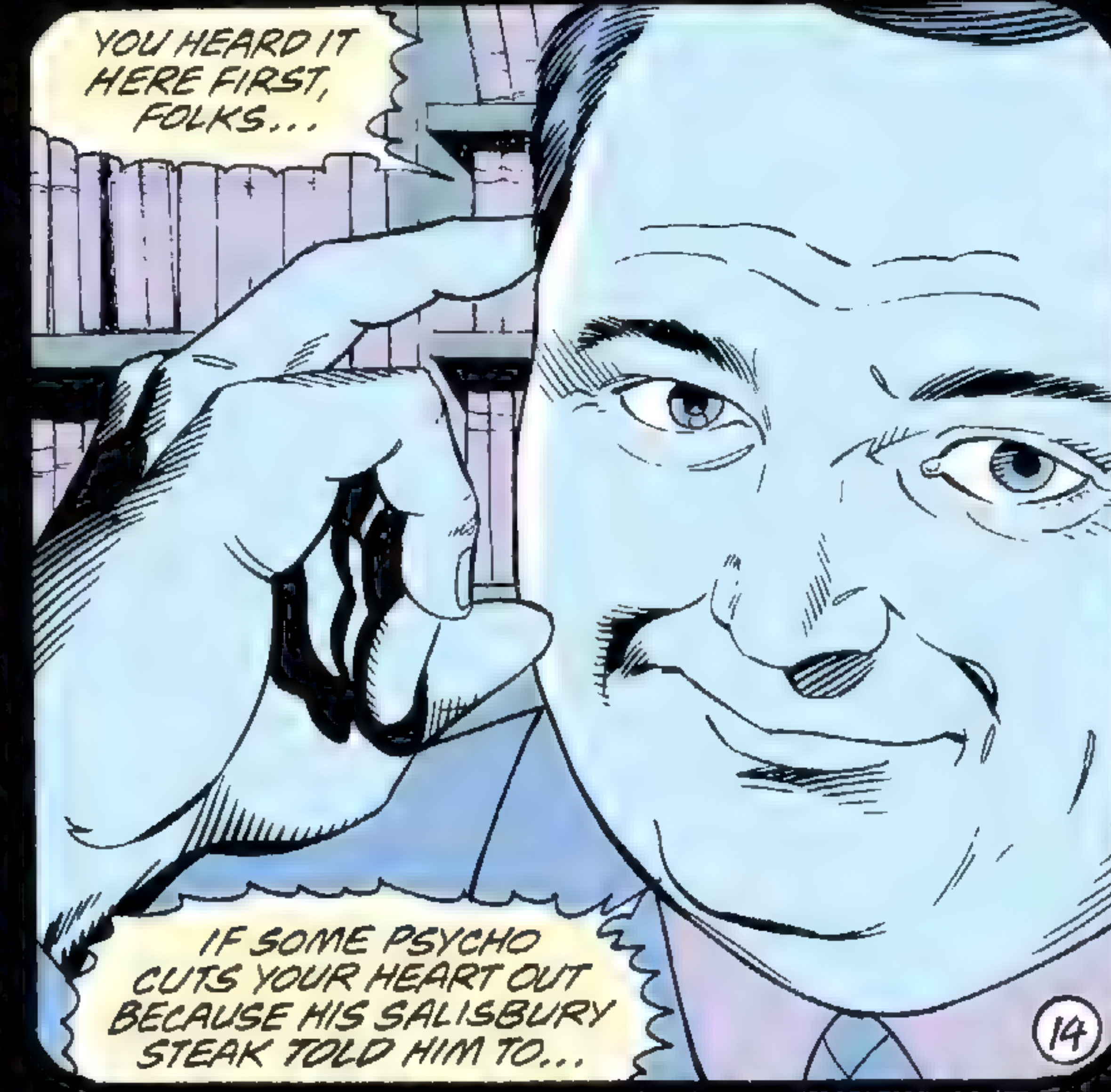
IT'S ALL RIGHT HERE IN "I'M SANE AND SO ARE YOU".

ALL OF US MUST SHARE THE BLAME.

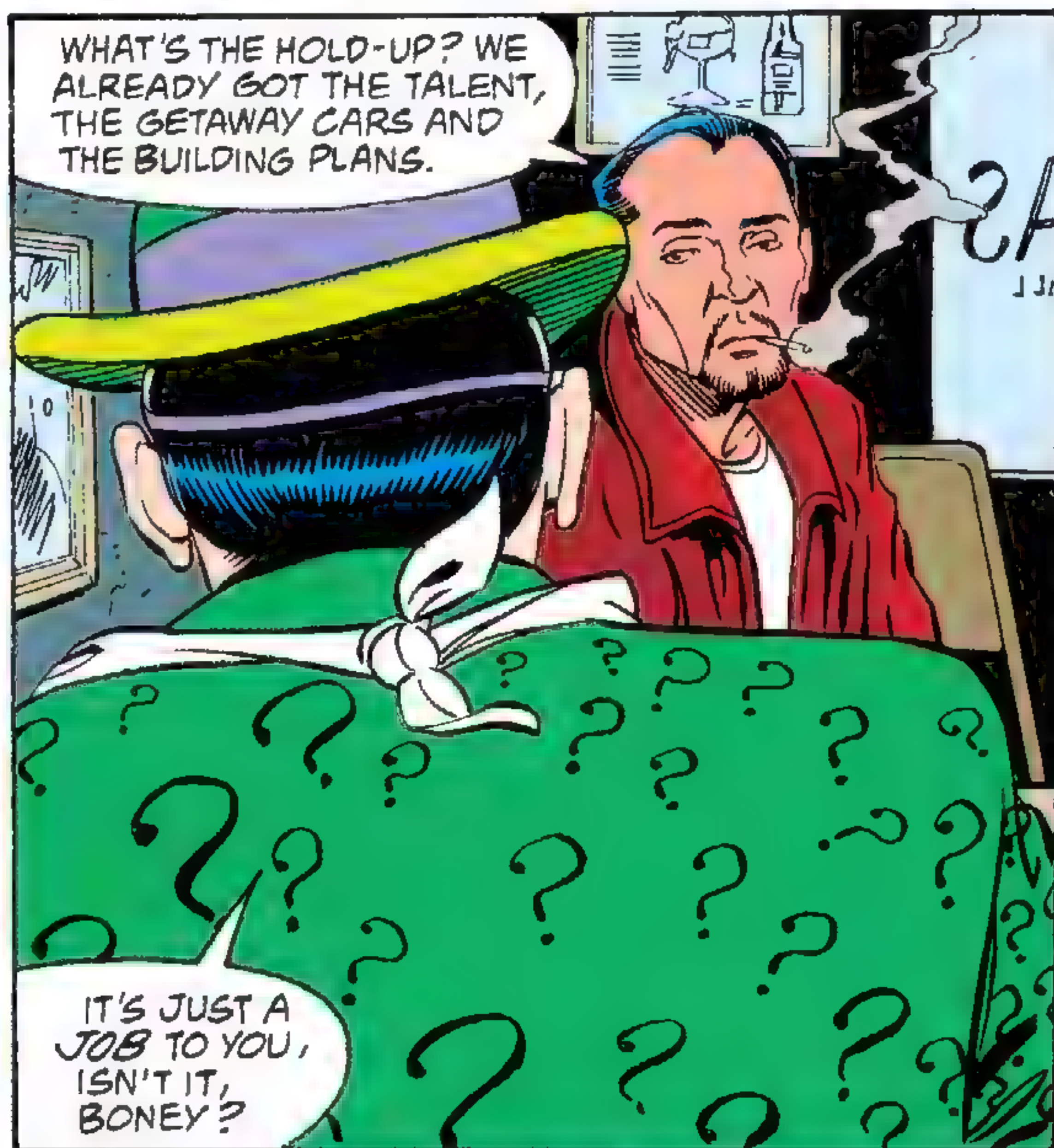


YOU HEARD IT HERE FIRST, FOLKS...

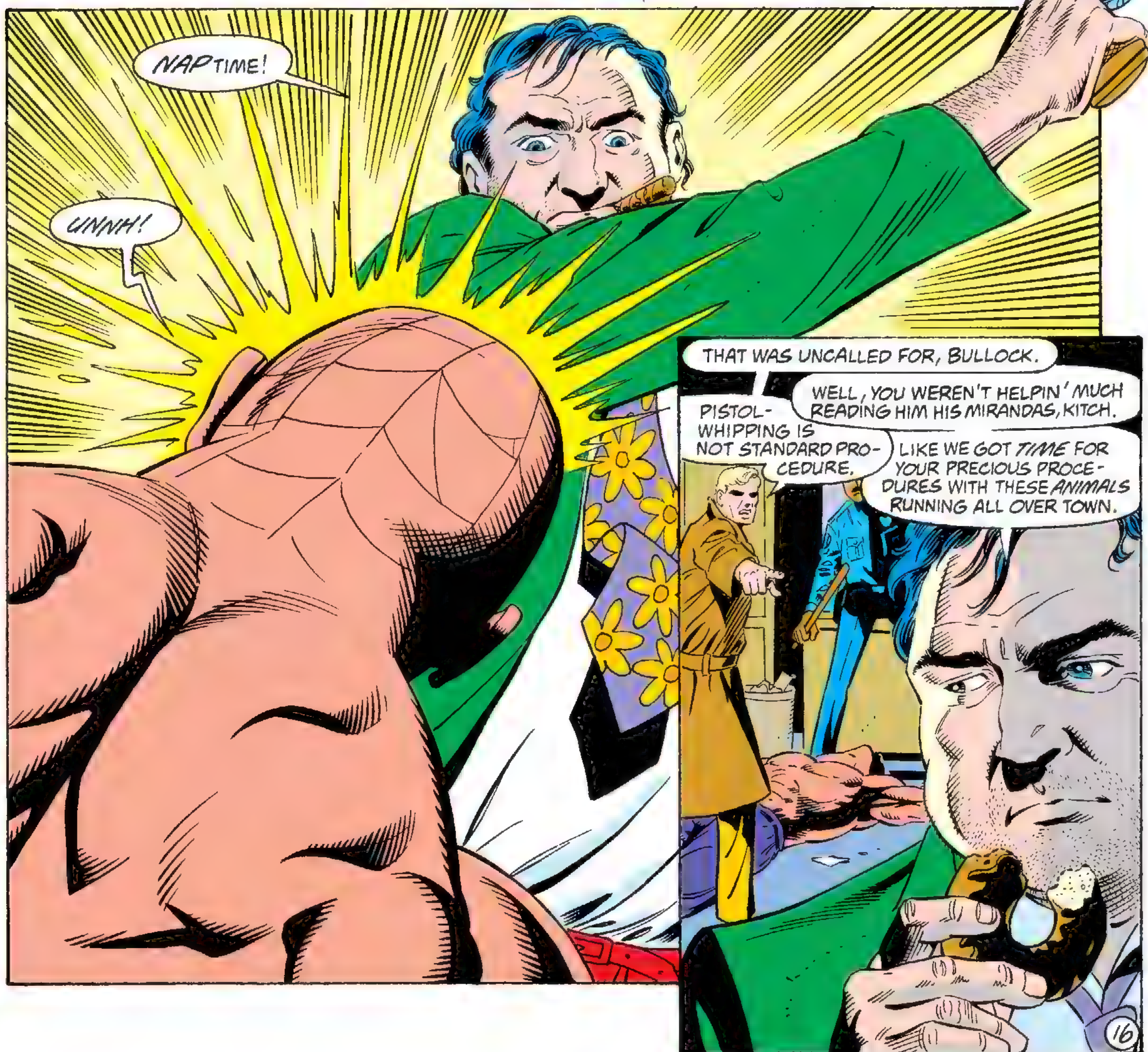
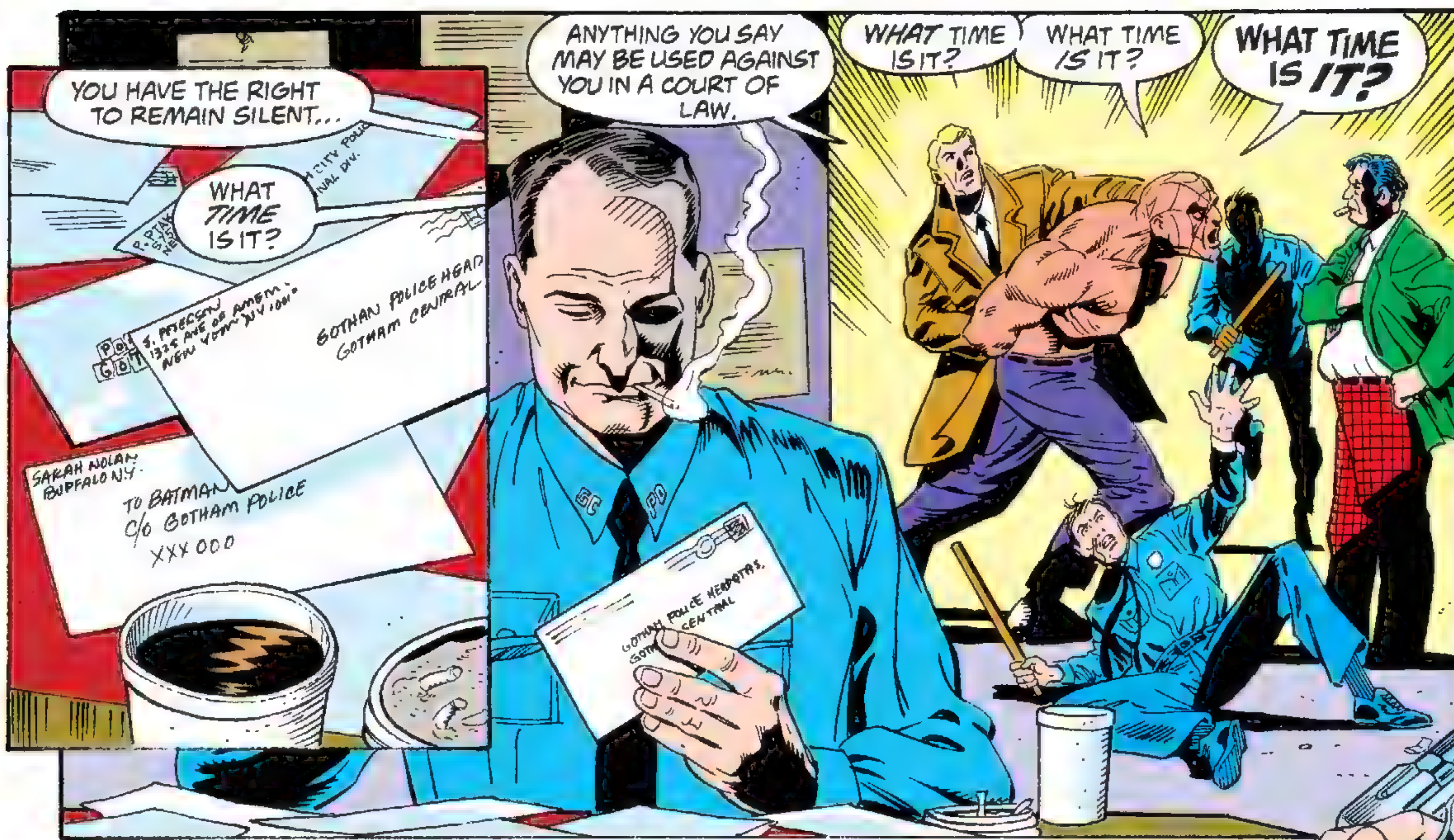
IF SOME PSYCHO CUTS YOUR HEART OUT BECAUSE HIS SALISBURY STEAK TOLD HIM TO...



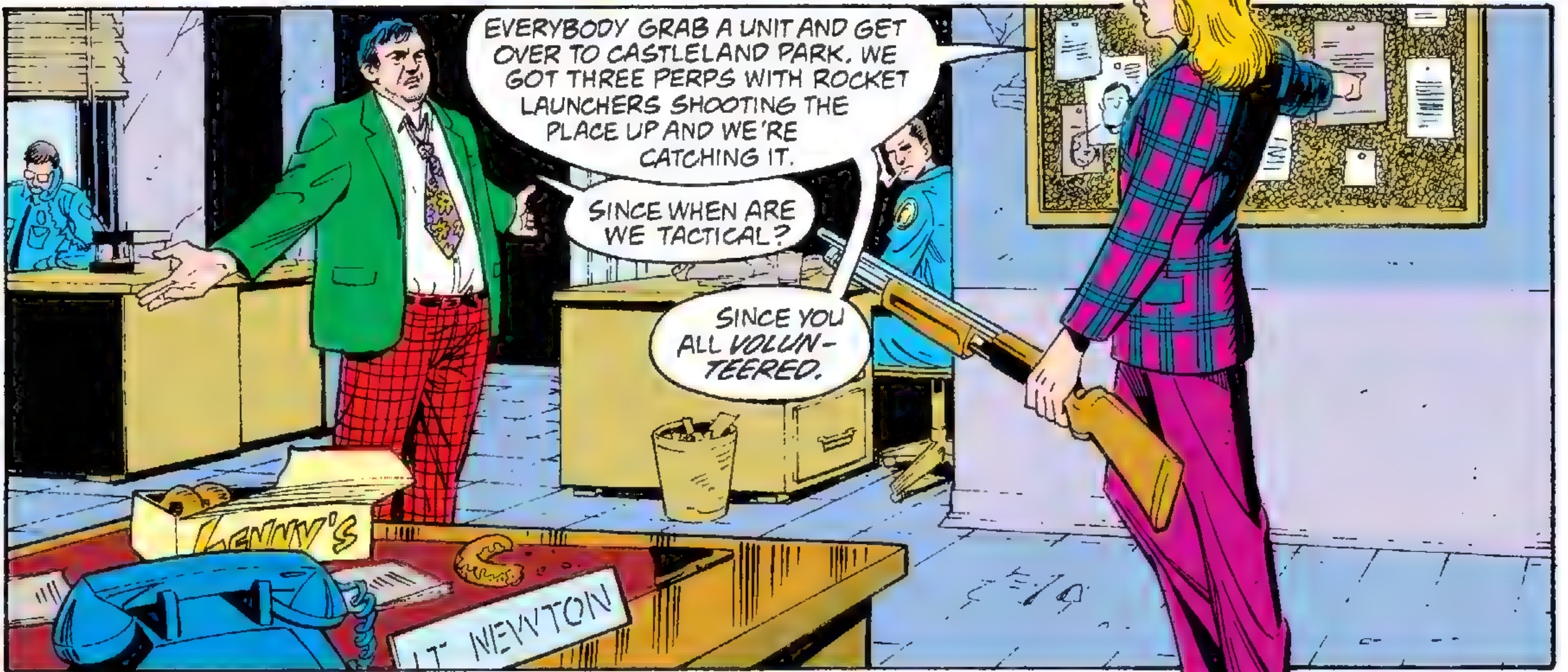




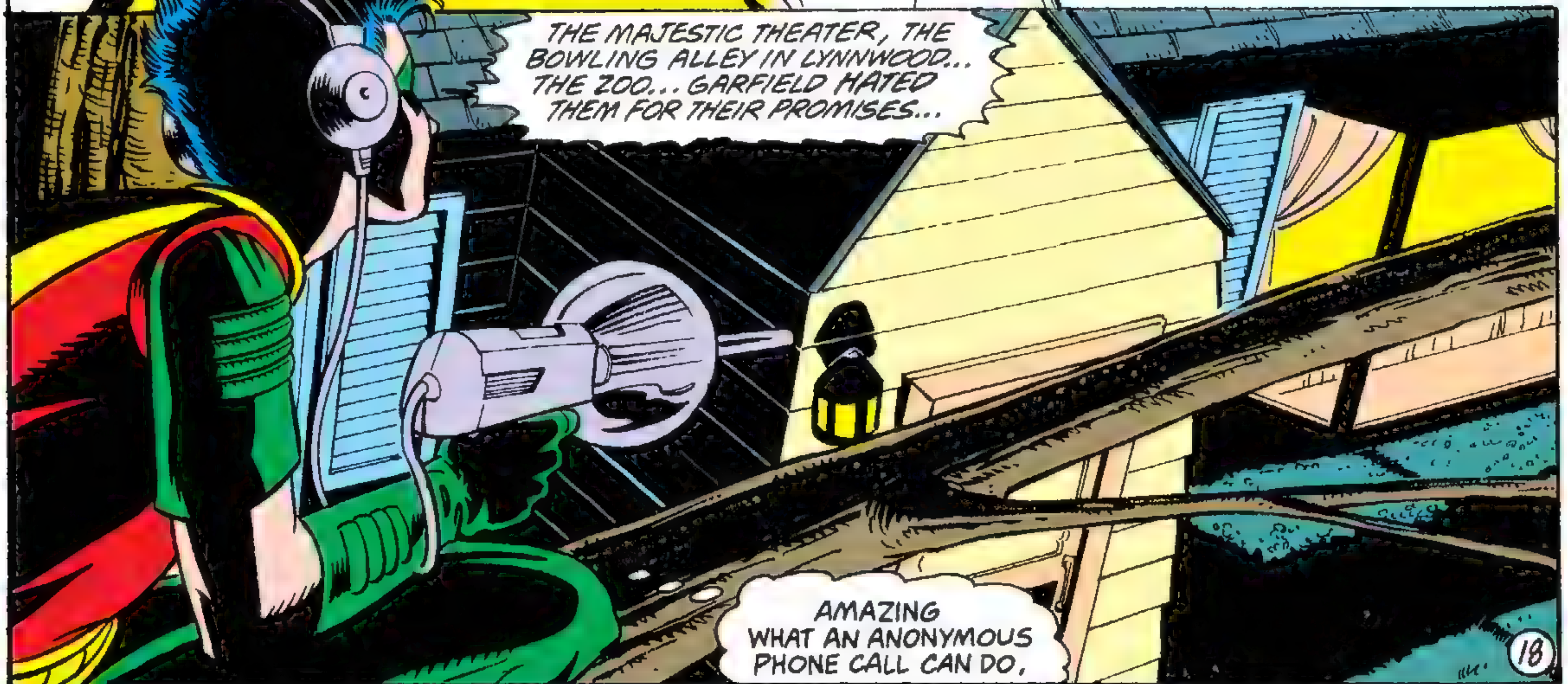
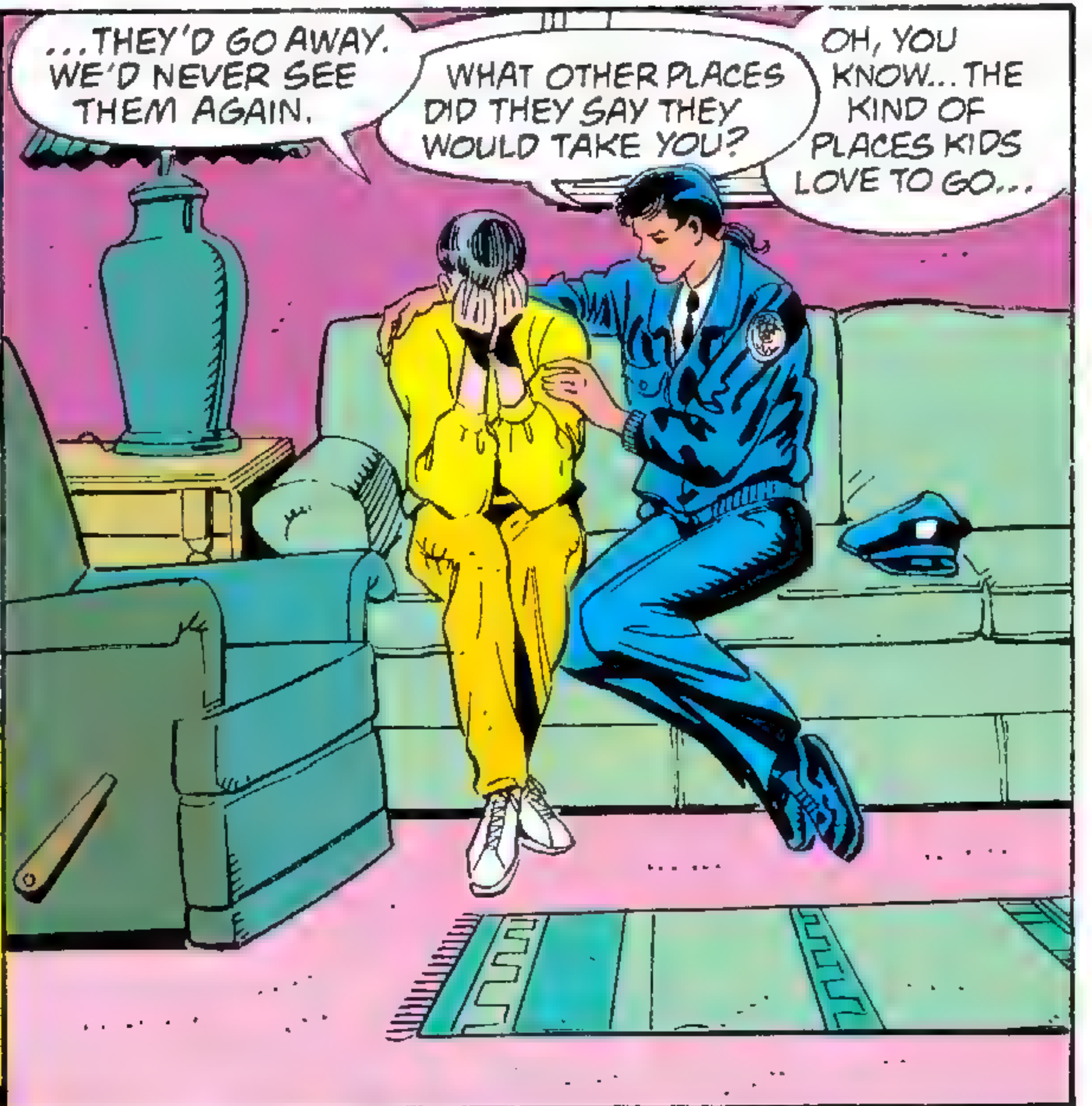
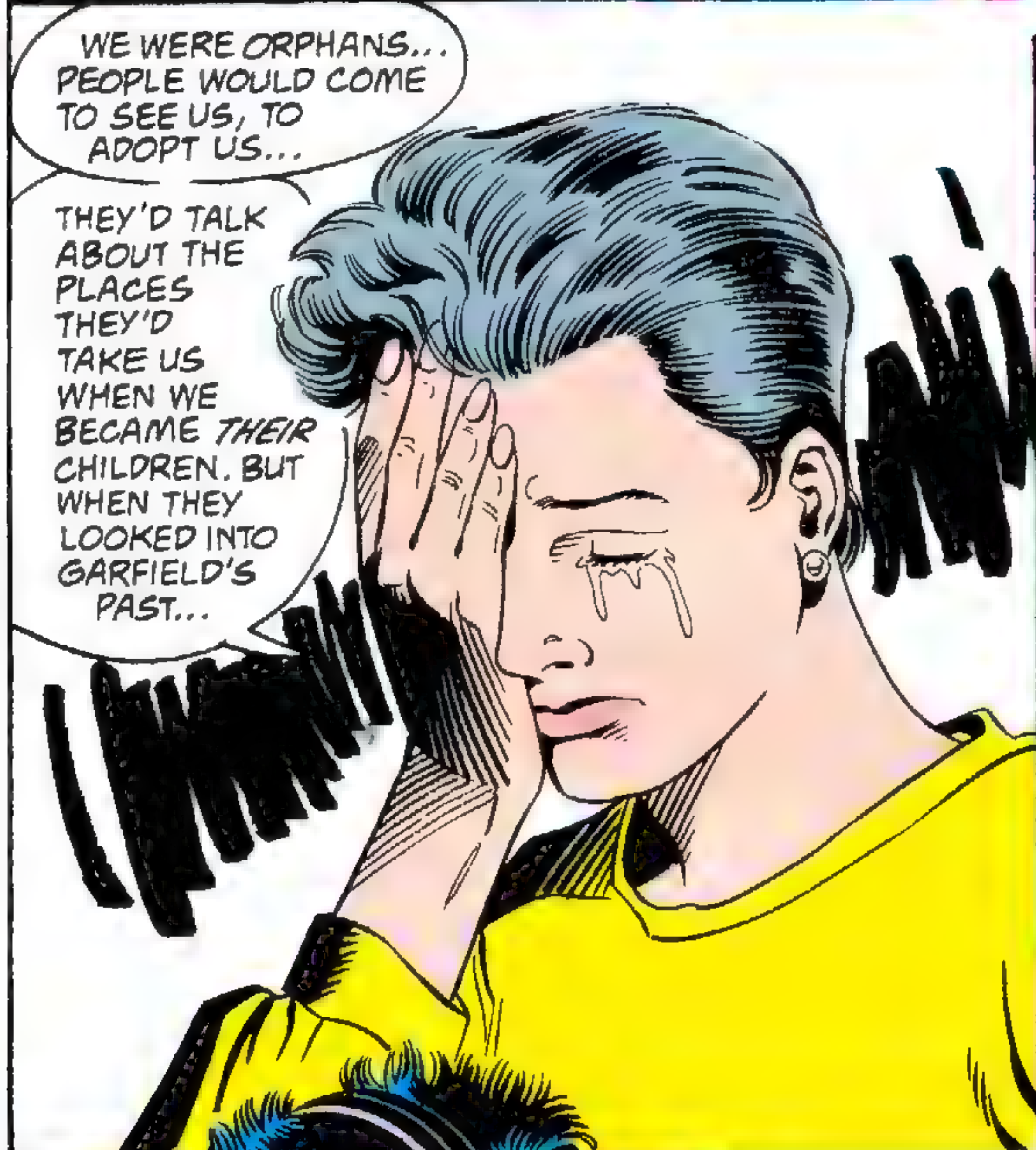
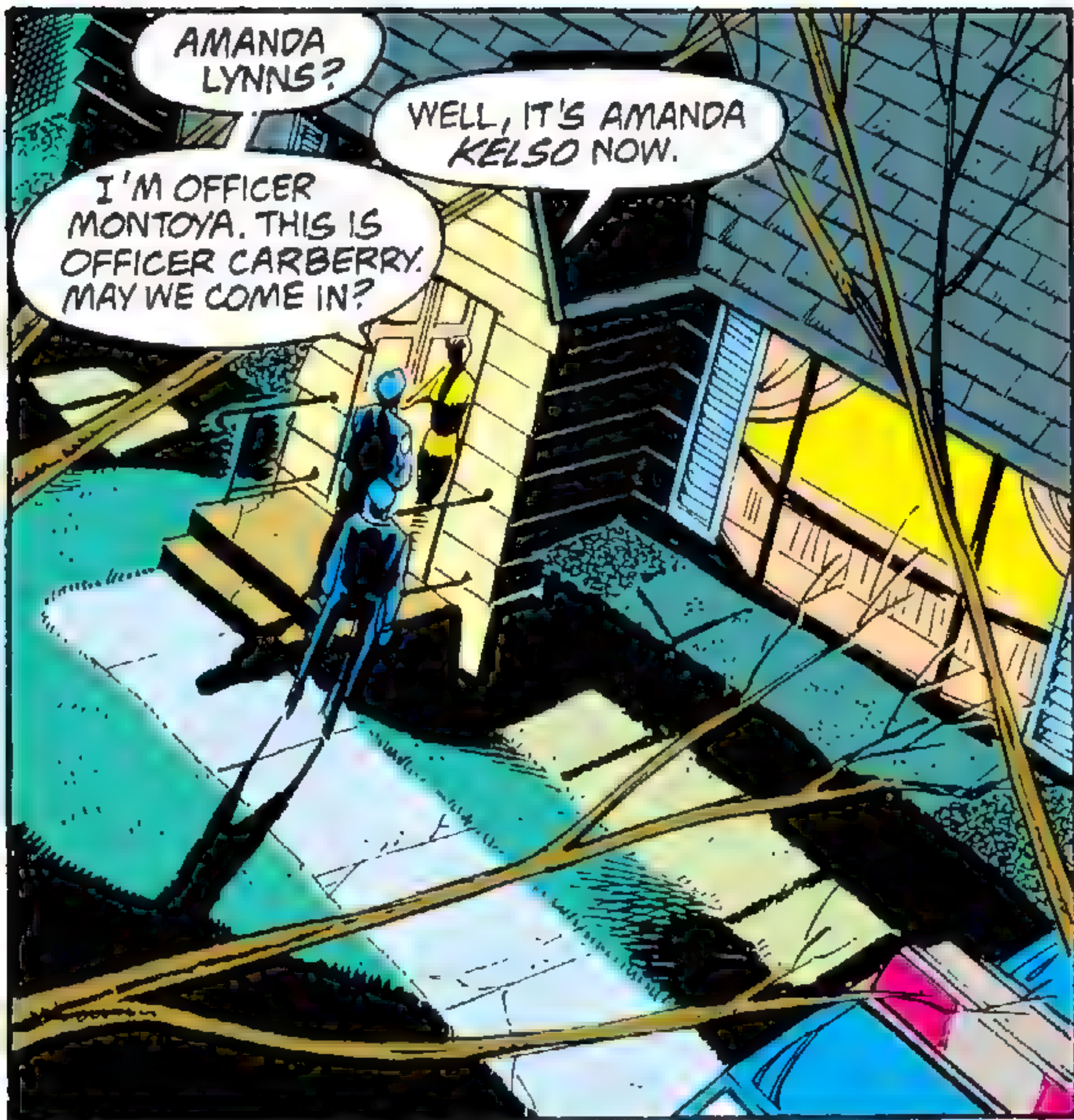










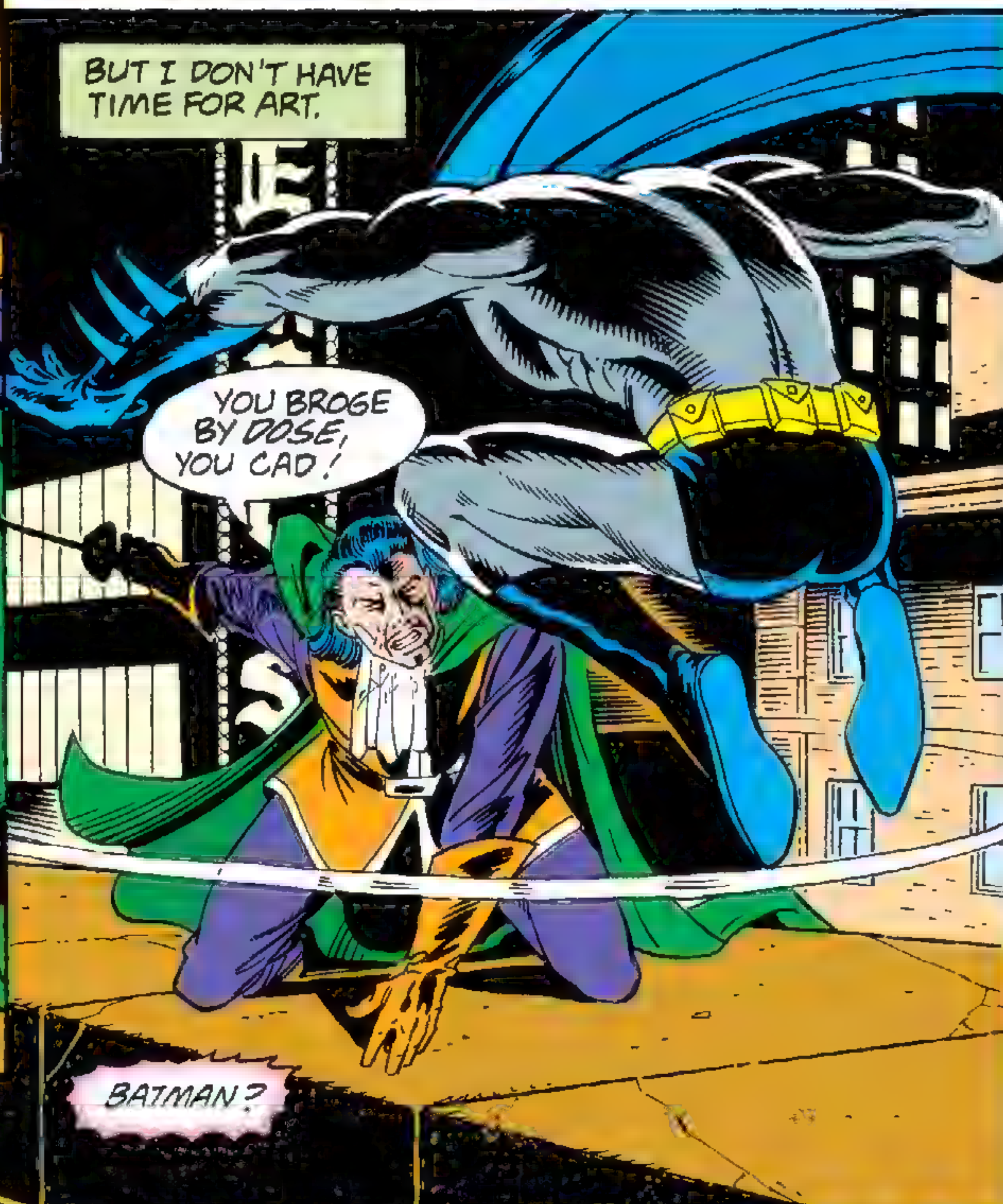






ONE OF THE  
LESSER  
MANIACS.

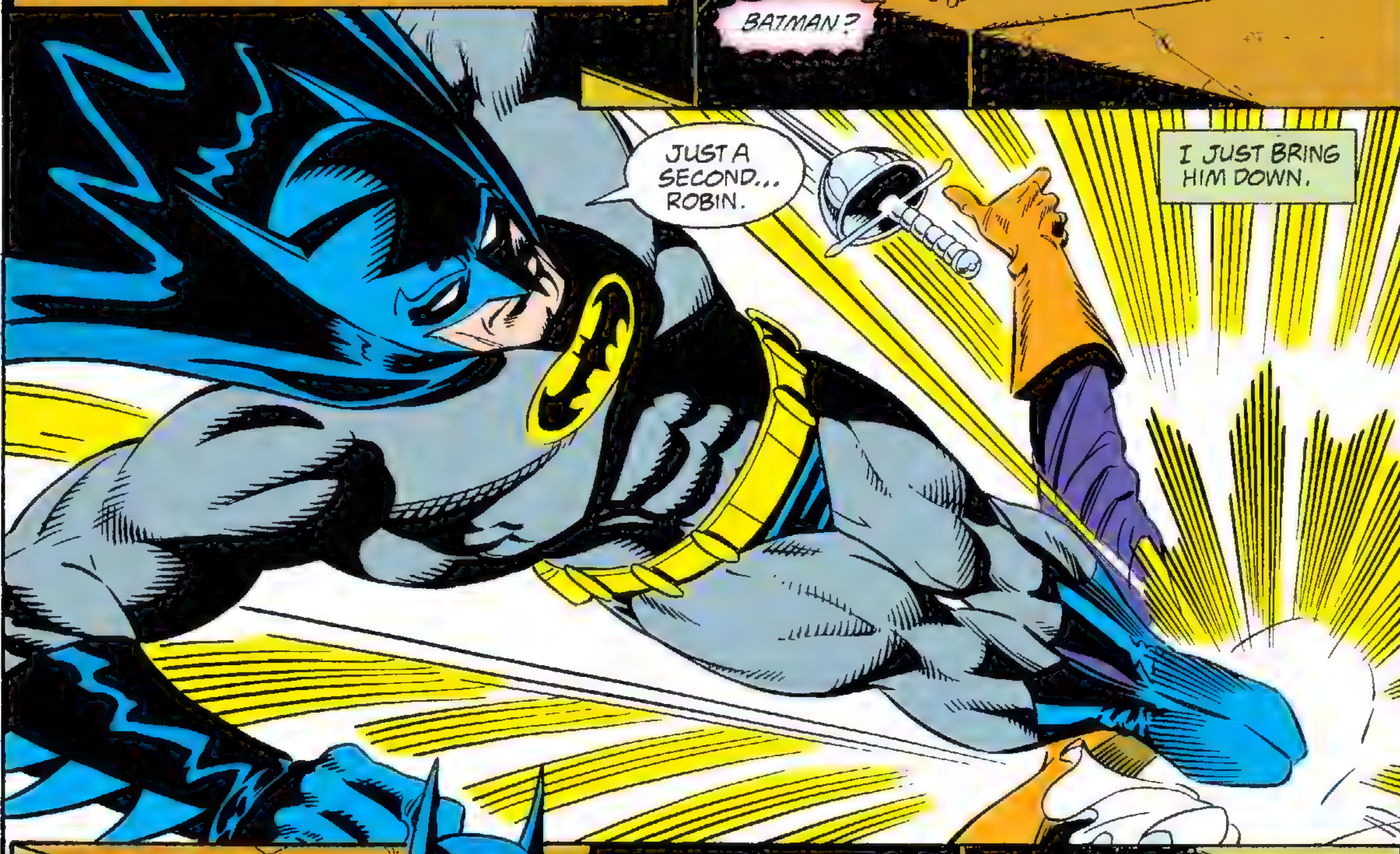
THE CAVALIER FANCIES  
HIMSELF SOME KIND  
OF EXPERT IN THE  
FENCING ARTS.



BUT I DON'T HAVE  
TIME FOR ART.

YOU BROGE  
BY DOSE,  
YOU CAD!

BATMAN?



JUST A  
SECOND...  
ROBIN.

I JUST BRING  
HIM DOWN.

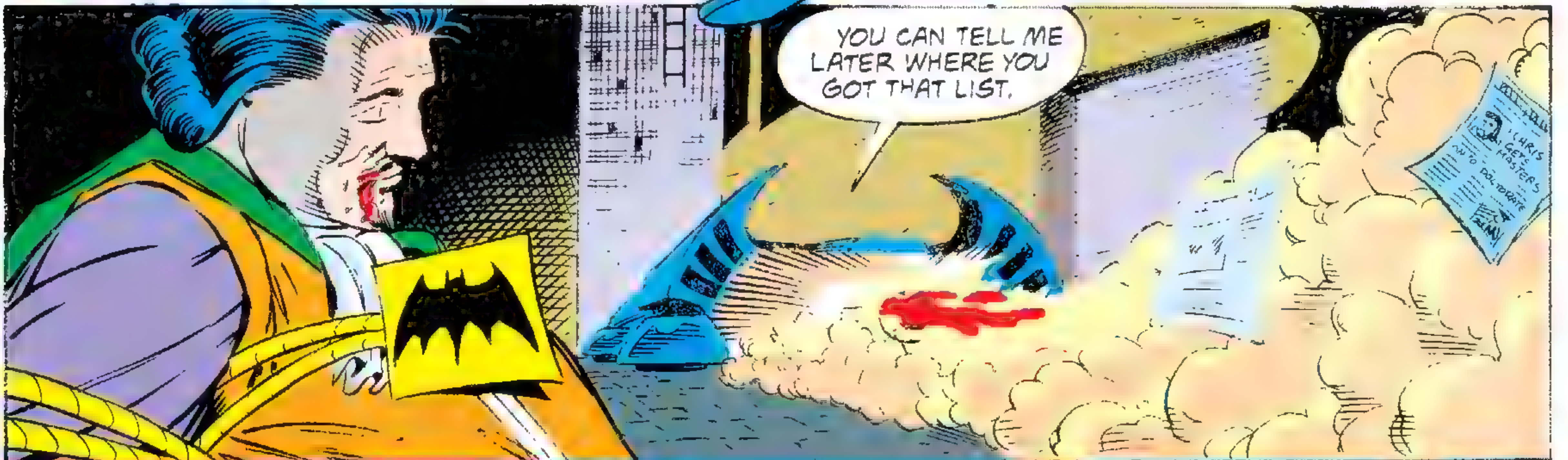
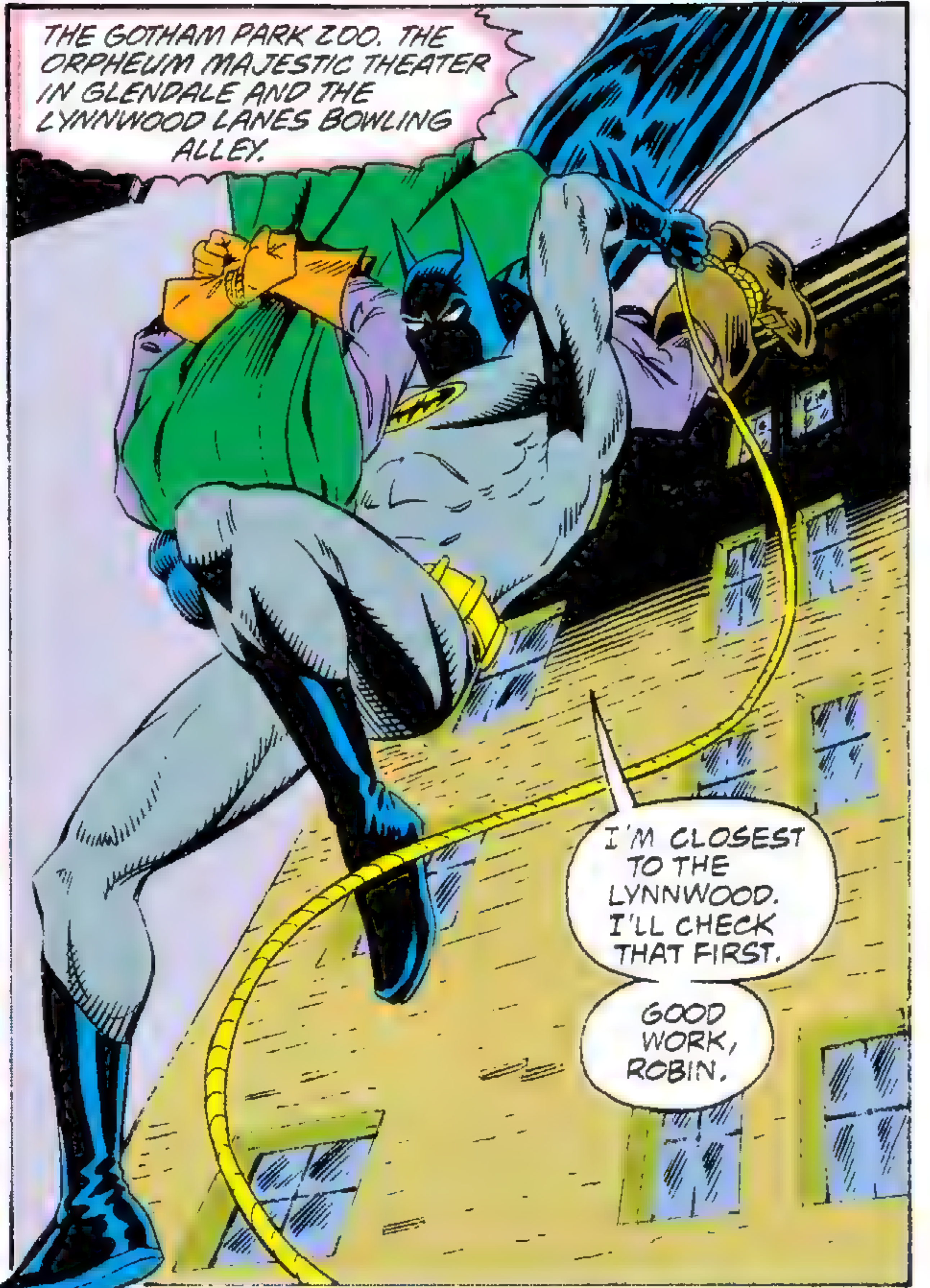
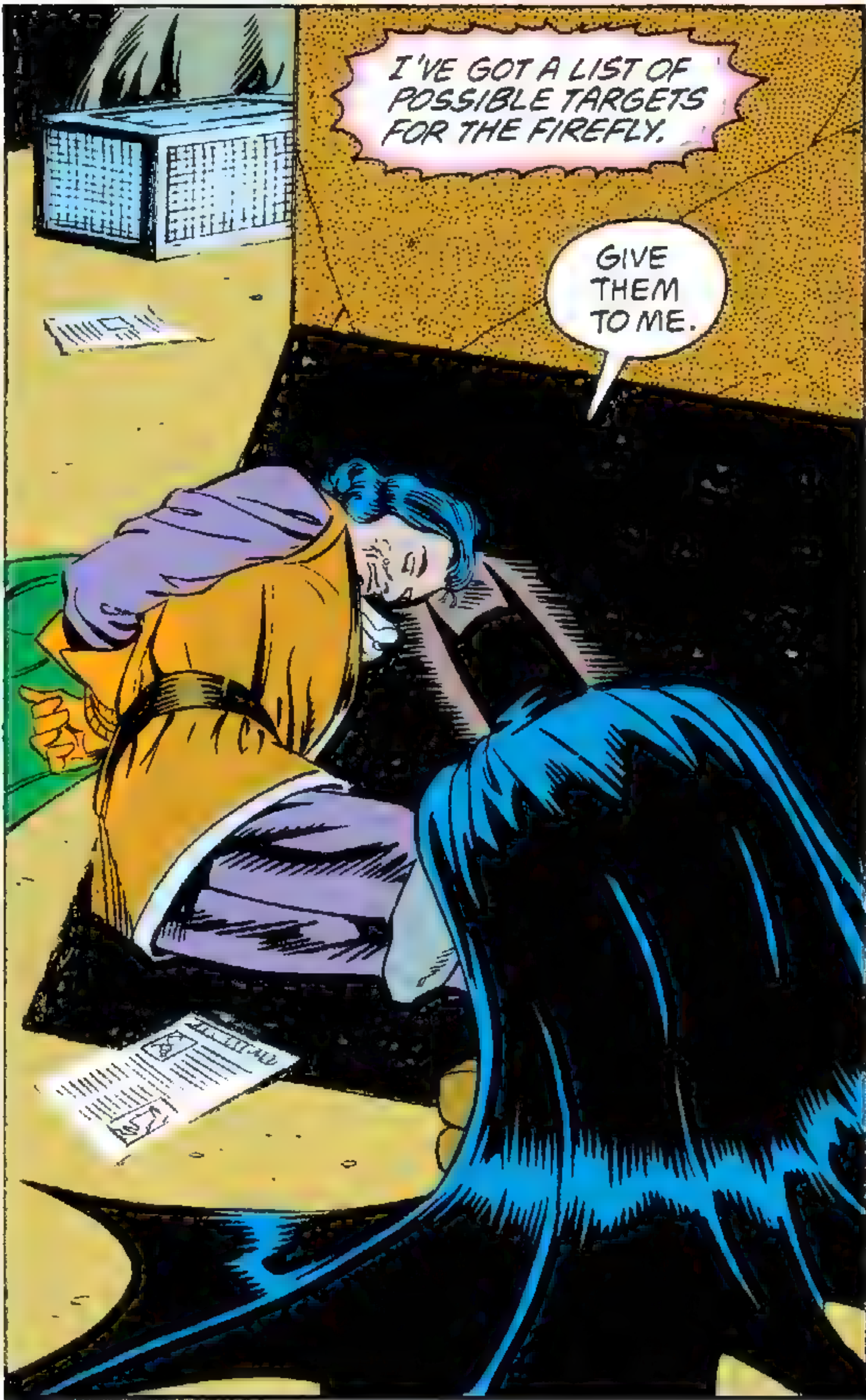


A LIGHTWEIGHT THUG,  
BUT IT TAKES EVERYTHING  
I'VE GOT TO TAKE HIM.

BATMAN?  
CAN YOU READ  
ME, BATMAN?

I'M HERE, ROBIN.  
GO AHEAD.

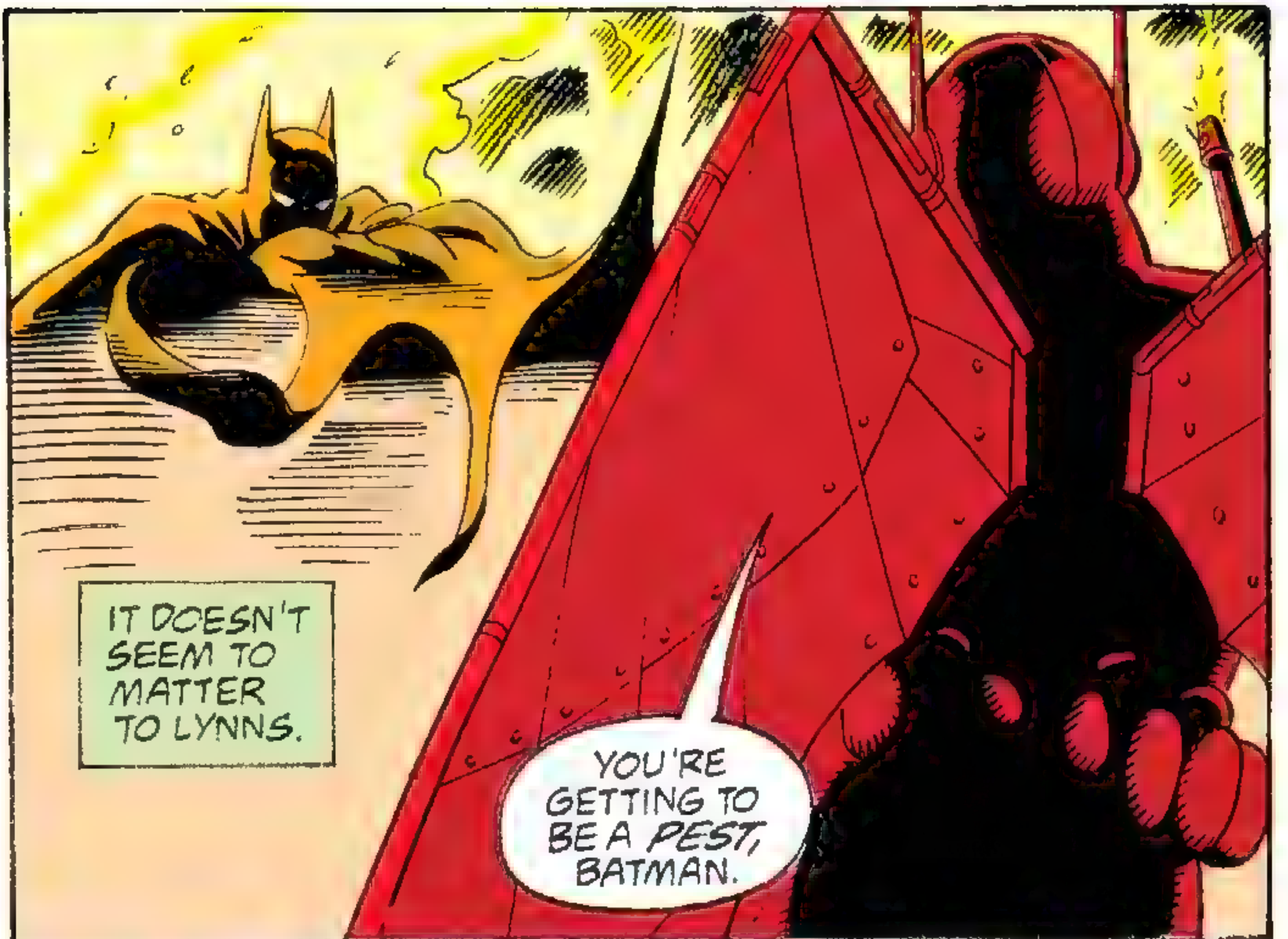






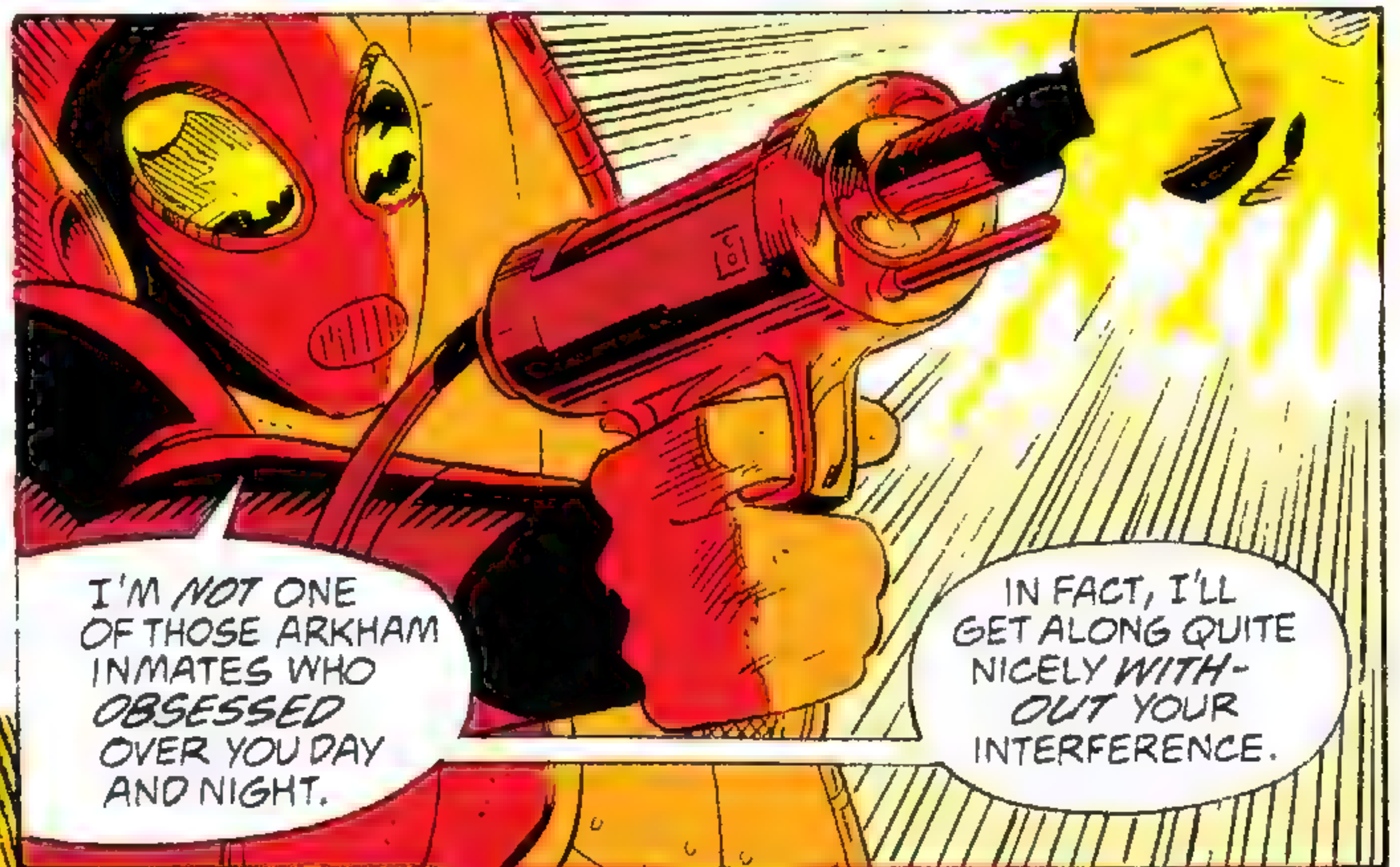
THE MAJESTIC IS NEXT, IT HASN'T BEEN A THEATER FOR YEARS. THESE DAYS IT'S A FURNITURE WAREHOUSE.

BURN...  
BURN...  
BURN!



IT DOESN'T  
SEEM TO  
MATTER  
TO LYNNS.

YOU'RE  
GETTING TO  
BE A PEST,  
BATMAN.



I'M NOT ONE  
OF THOSE ARKHAM  
INMATES WHO  
OBSESSED  
OVER YOU DAY  
AND NIGHT.

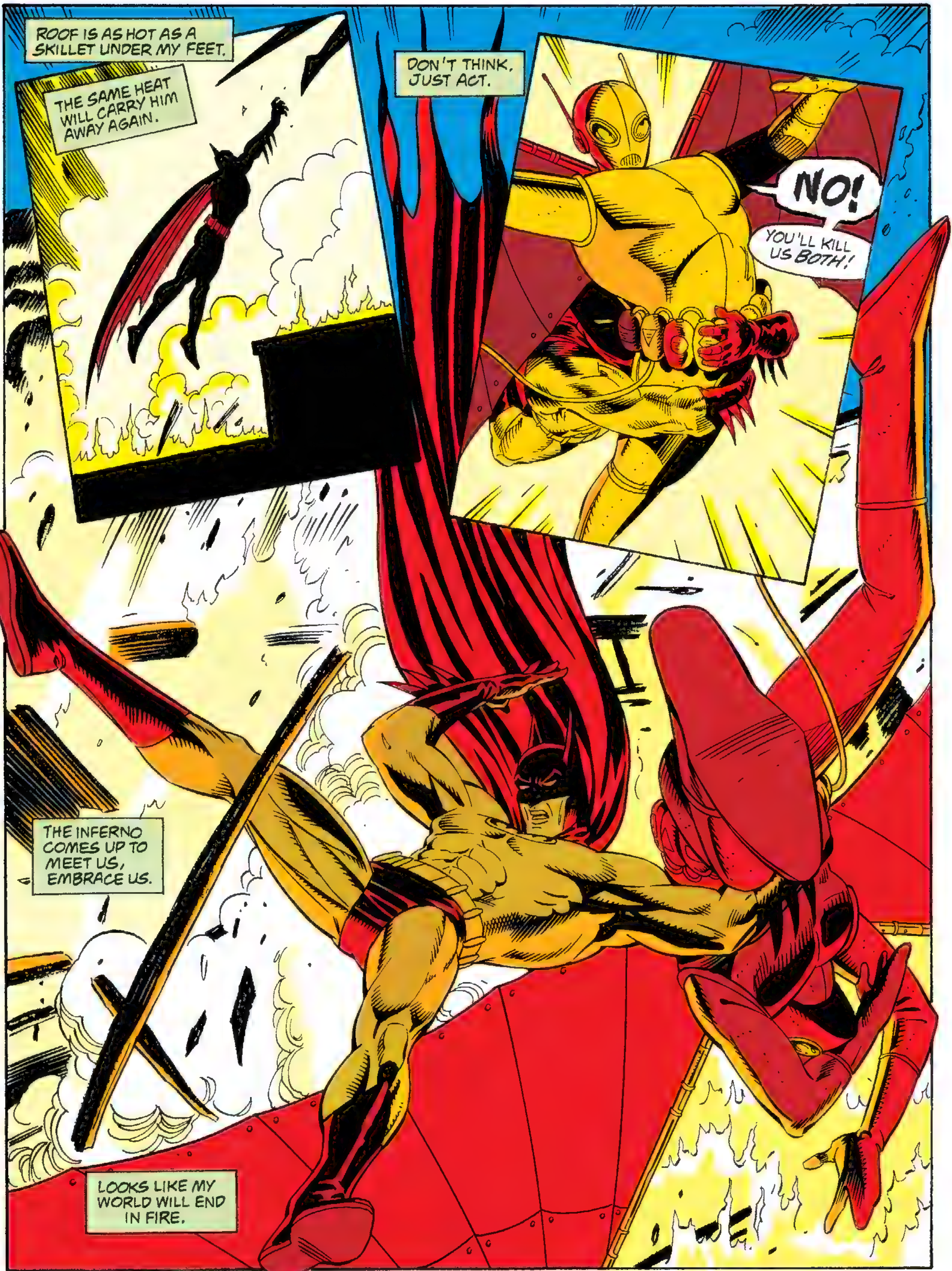
IN FACT, I'LL  
GET ALONG QUITE  
NICELY WITH-  
OUT YOUR  
INTERFERENCE.



BUT IF YOU SPOIL  
MY FUN ONE MORE  
TIME I MAY BE FORCED  
TO CHANGE MY MIND  
ABOUT THAT!

YOU REALLY  
ARE A WET  
BLANKET,  
BATTY.









BATMAN

495  
LATE  
JUNE 93

KNIGHTFALL

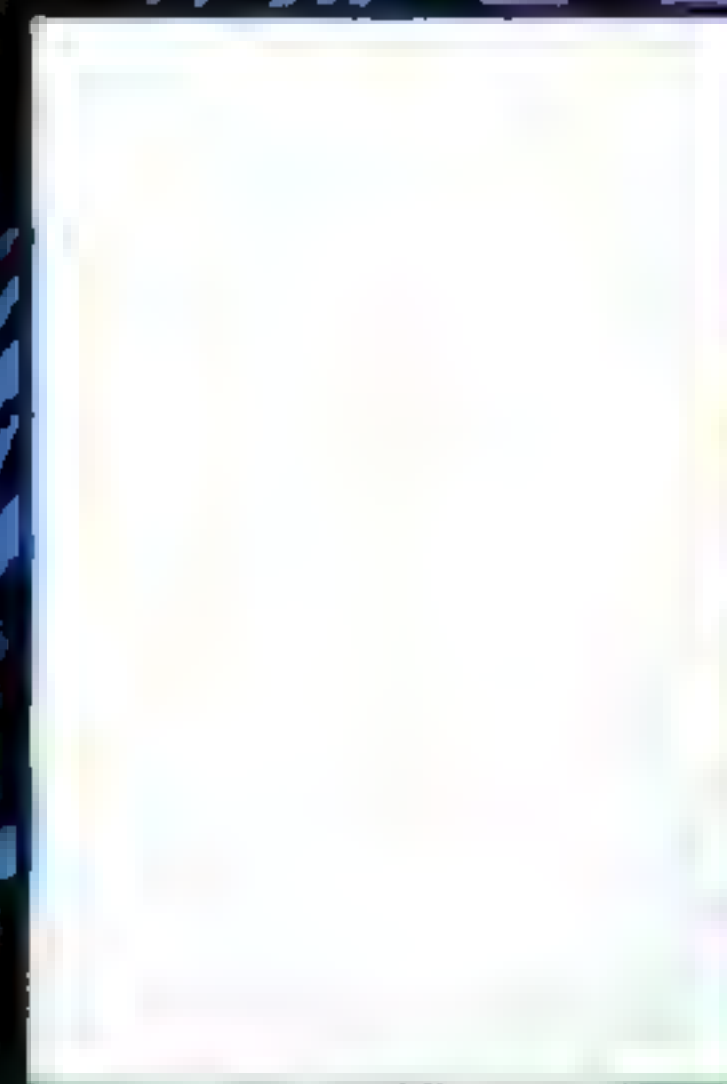


APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE  
AUTHORITY

# BATMAN



KELLEY SOBEL '93



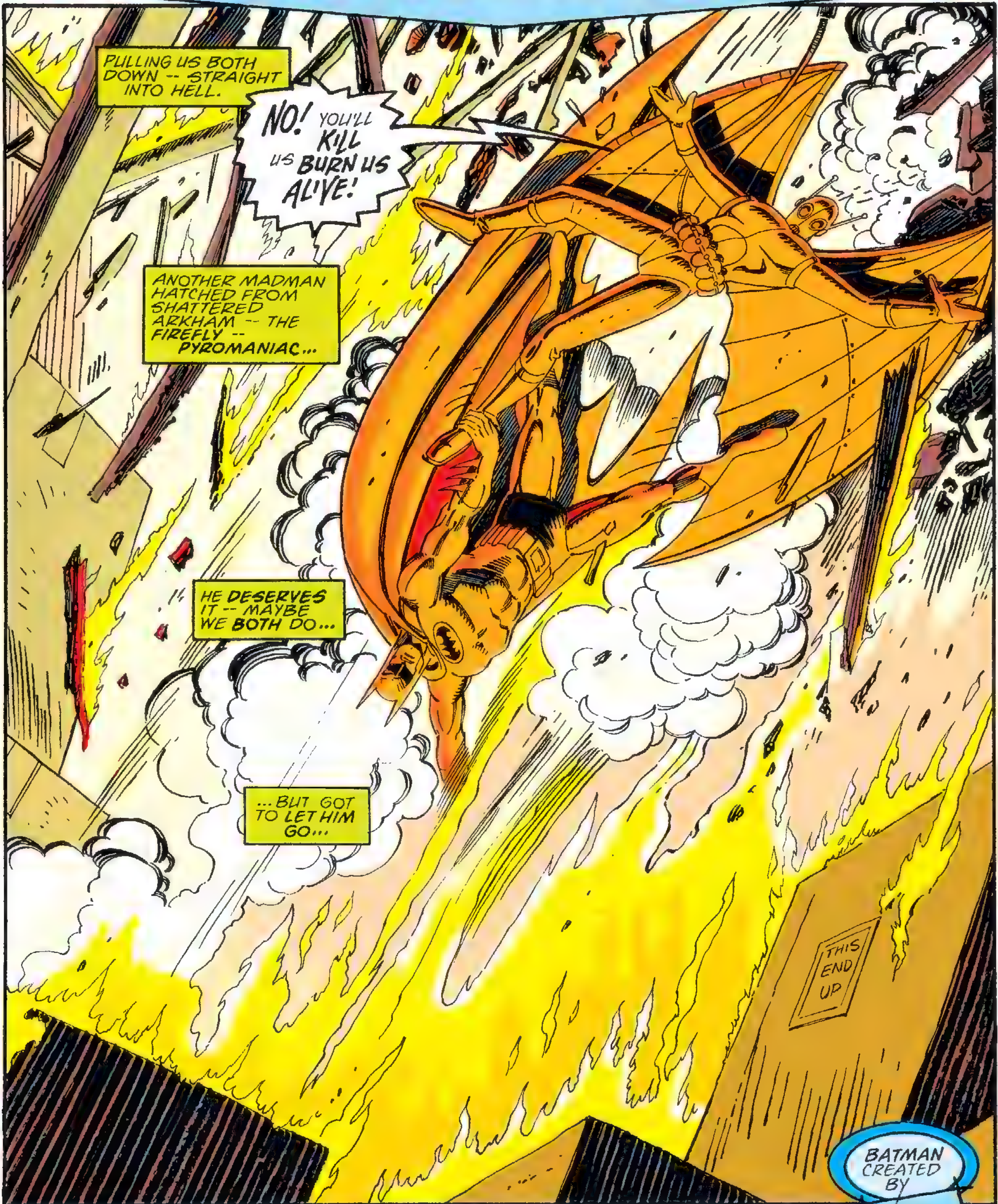




Cover art by  
**KELLEY JONES**



# STRAFE DEAD FELLOWS



DOUG  
MOENCH  
WRITER

JIM  
APAZO  
PENCILLER

BOB  
WIACEK  
INKER

ADRIENNE  
ROY  
COLORIST

RICHARD  
STARKINGS  
LETTERER

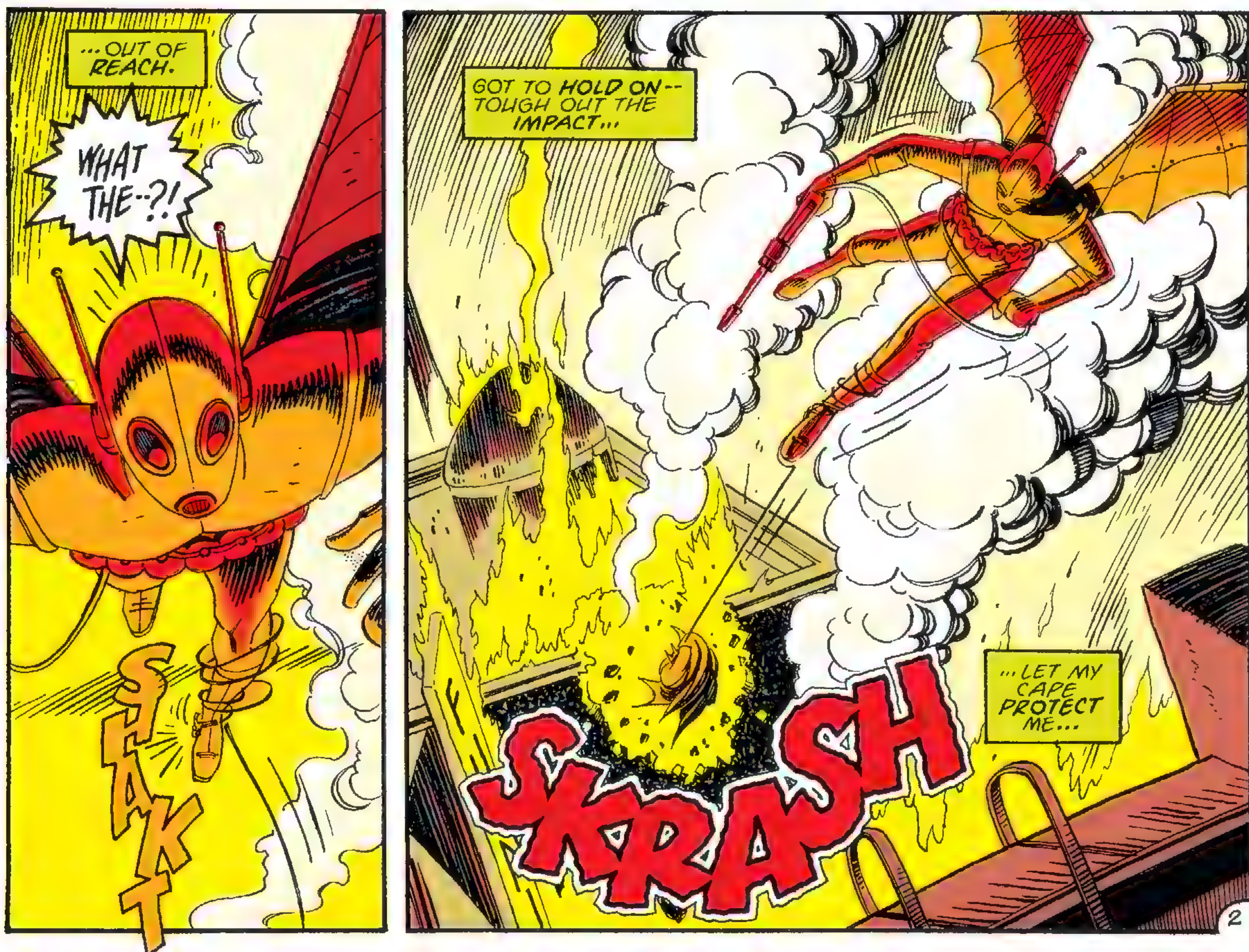
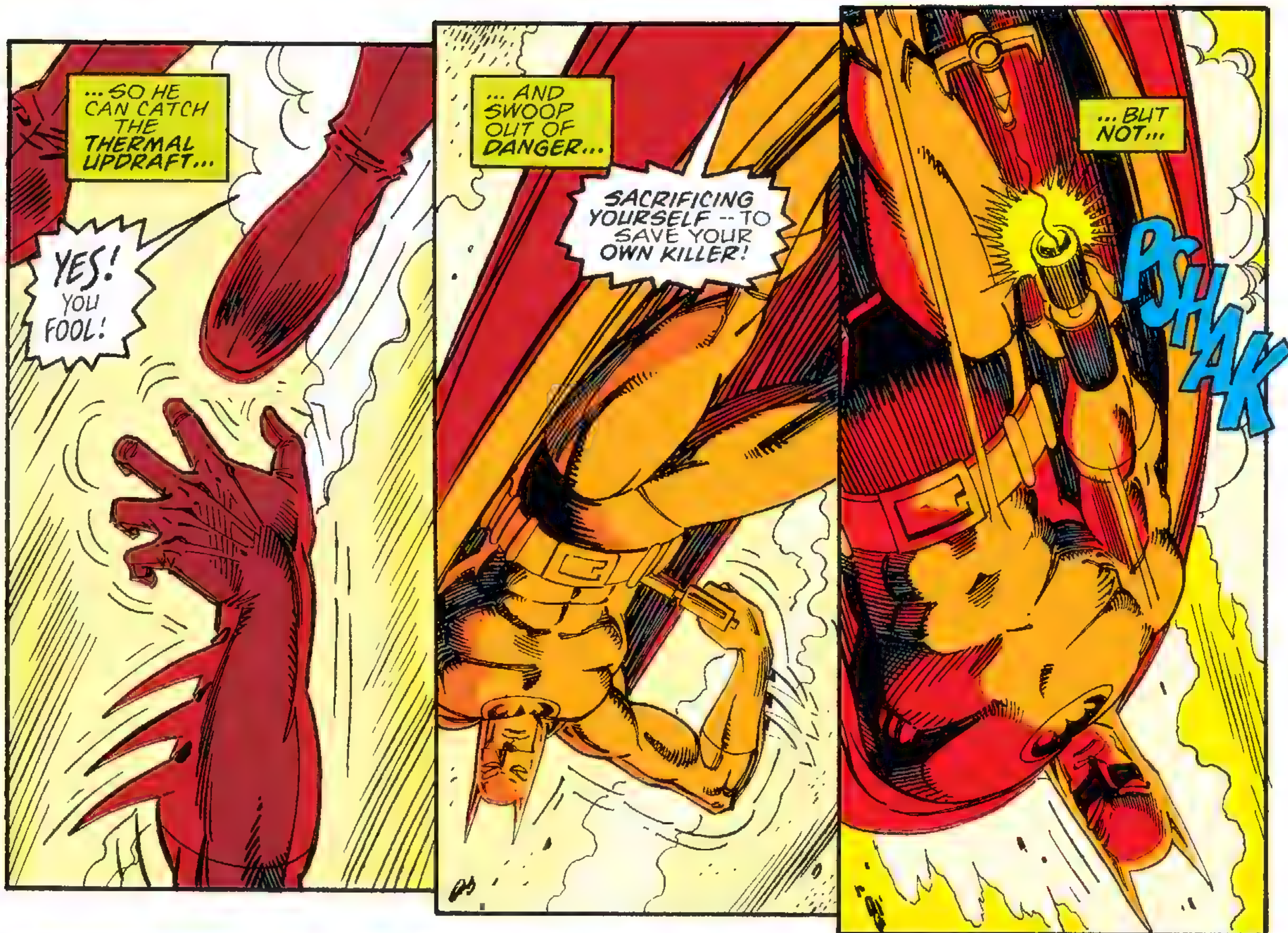
JORDAN B.  
GORFINKEL  
ASST. EDITOR

DENNIS  
O'NEIL  
EDITOR

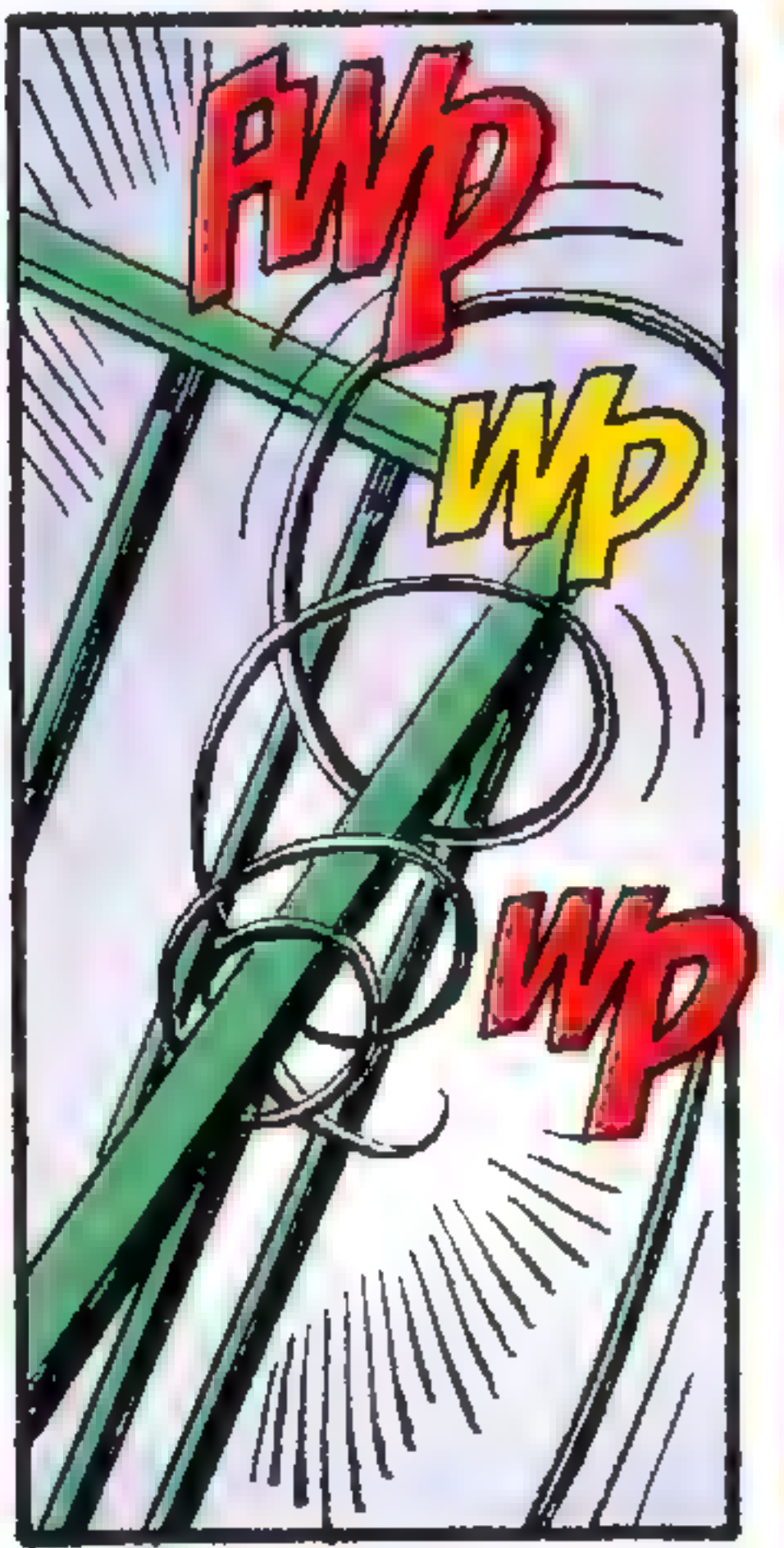
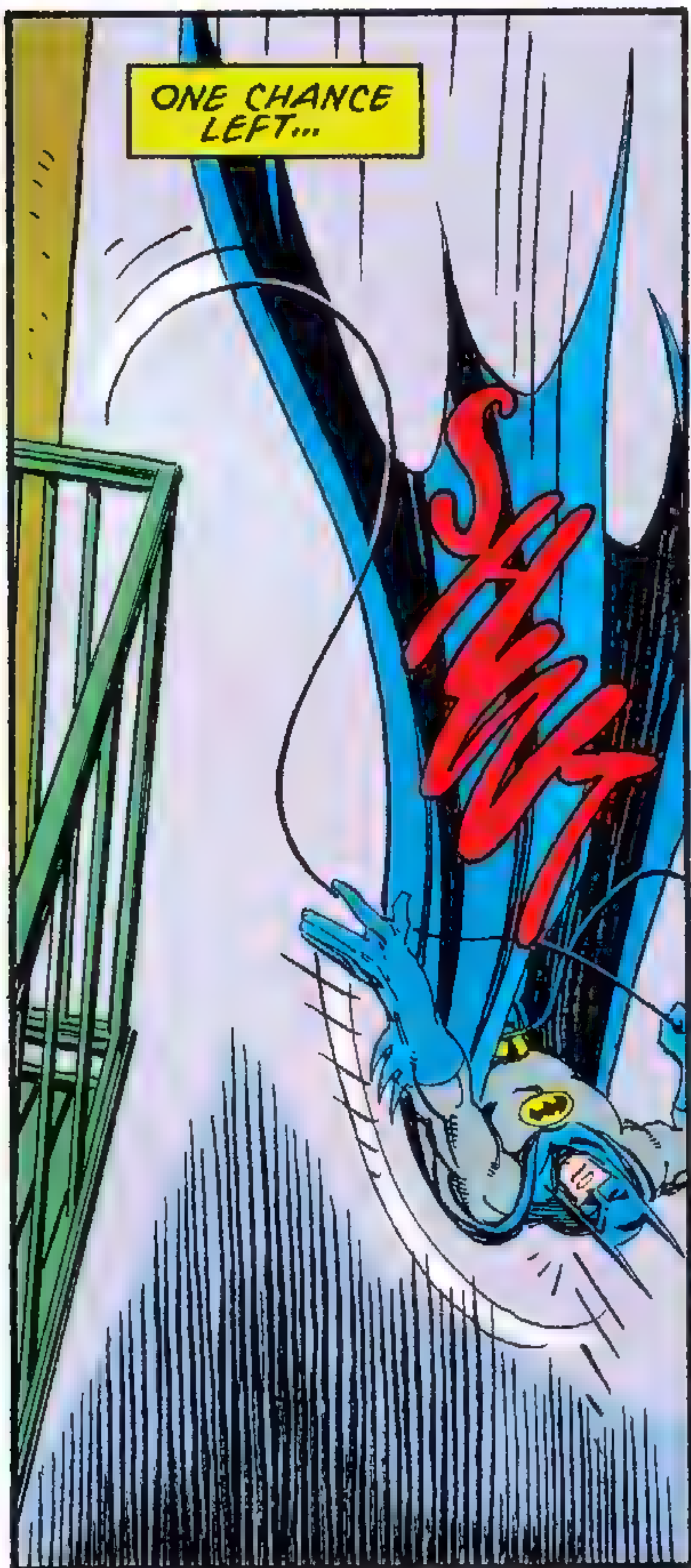
BATMAN  
CREATED  
BY

BOB  
KANE

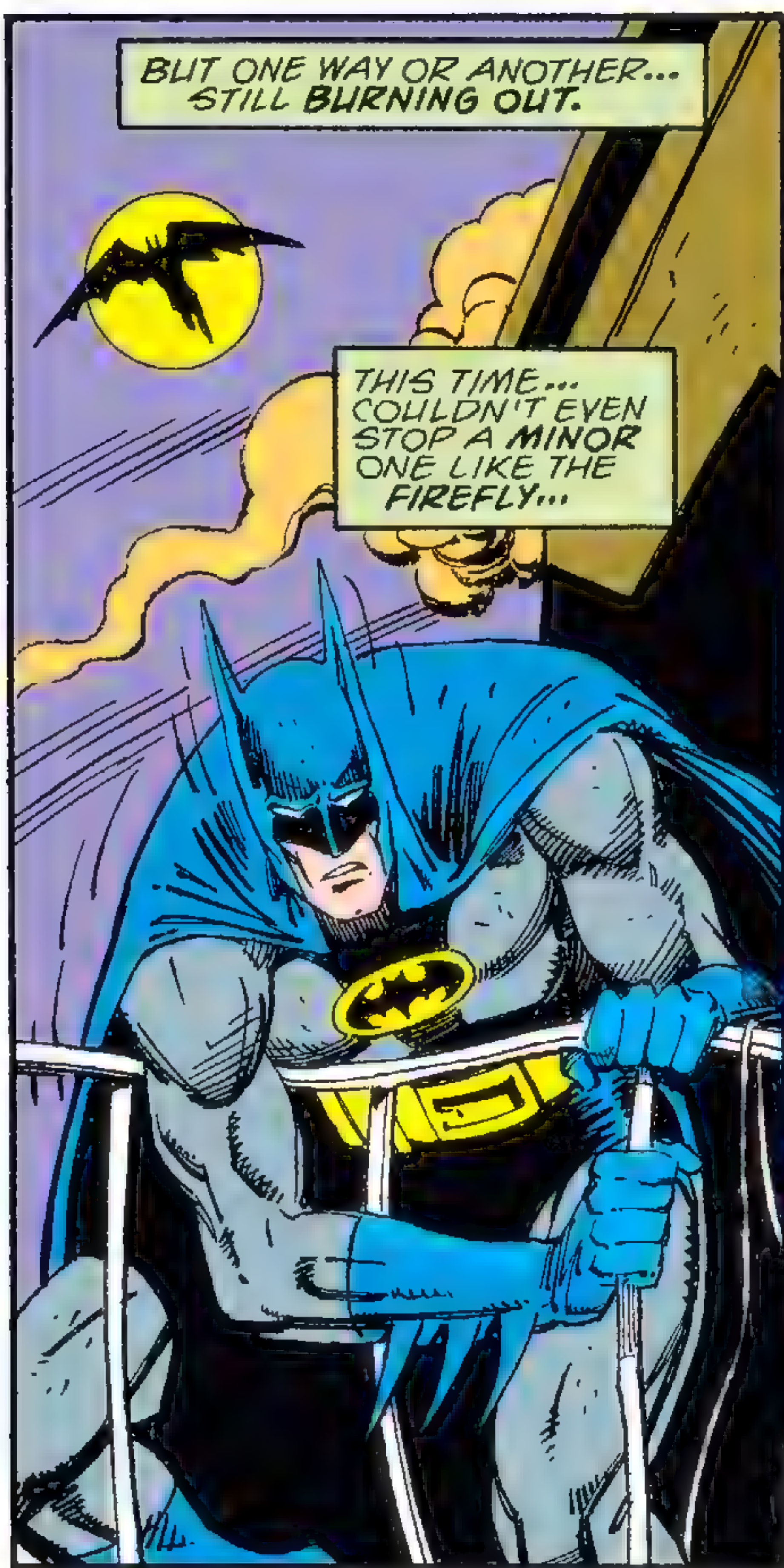






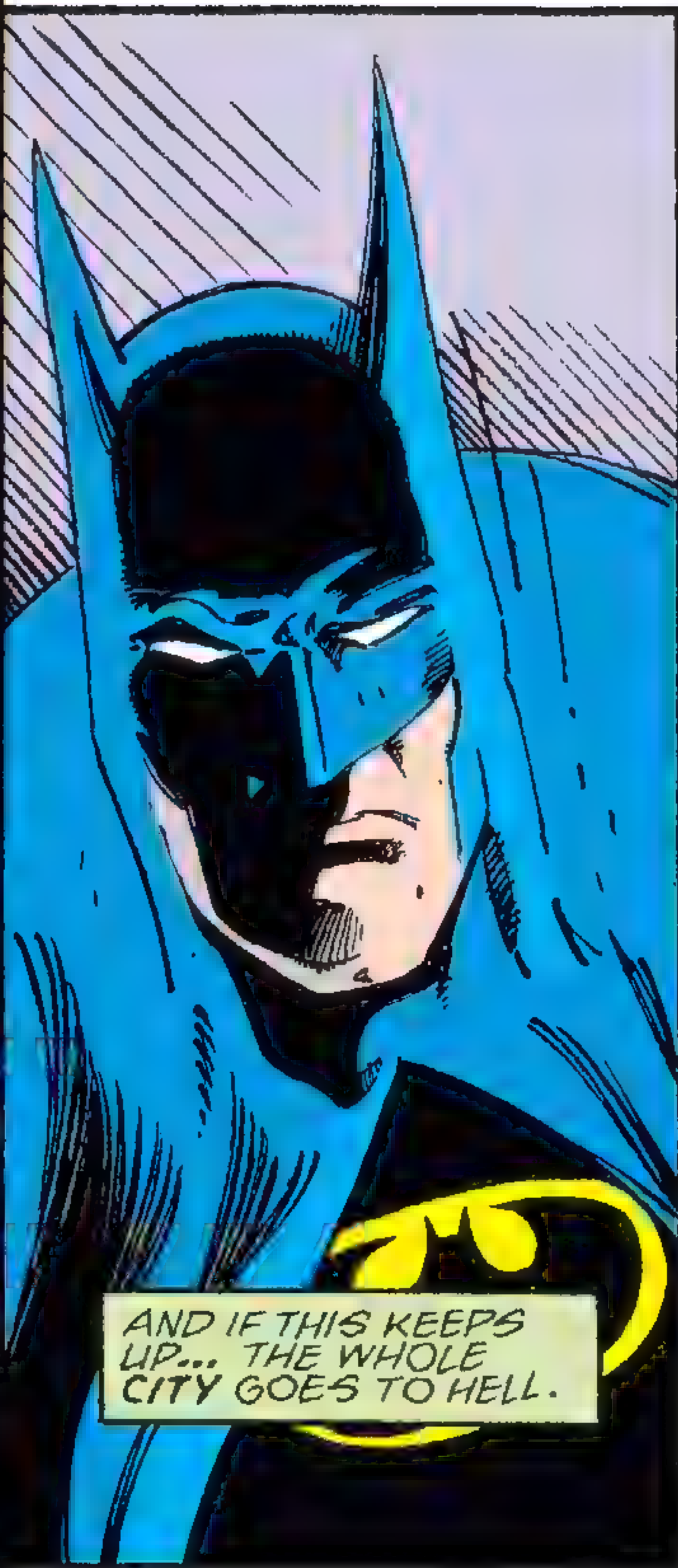






BUT ONE WAY OR ANOTHER...  
STILL BURNING OUT.

THIS TIME...  
COULDN'T EVEN  
STOP A MINOR  
ONE LIKE THE  
FIREFLY...



AND IF THIS KEEPS  
UP... THE WHOLE  
CITY GOES TO HELL.



STILL FEEL  
LIKE HELL, EVEN  
AFTER WEEKS  
OF THOUSAND-  
PUSHUP  
DAYS...



BUT  
THE PROBLEM,  
OF COURSE,  
IS HARDLY  
PHYSICAL.

AFTER THAT  
DISASTROUS  
ENCOUNTER WITH  
KILLER CROC, I'VE  
GOT TO REDEEM  
MYSELF... PROVE  
MYSELF  
WORTHY...

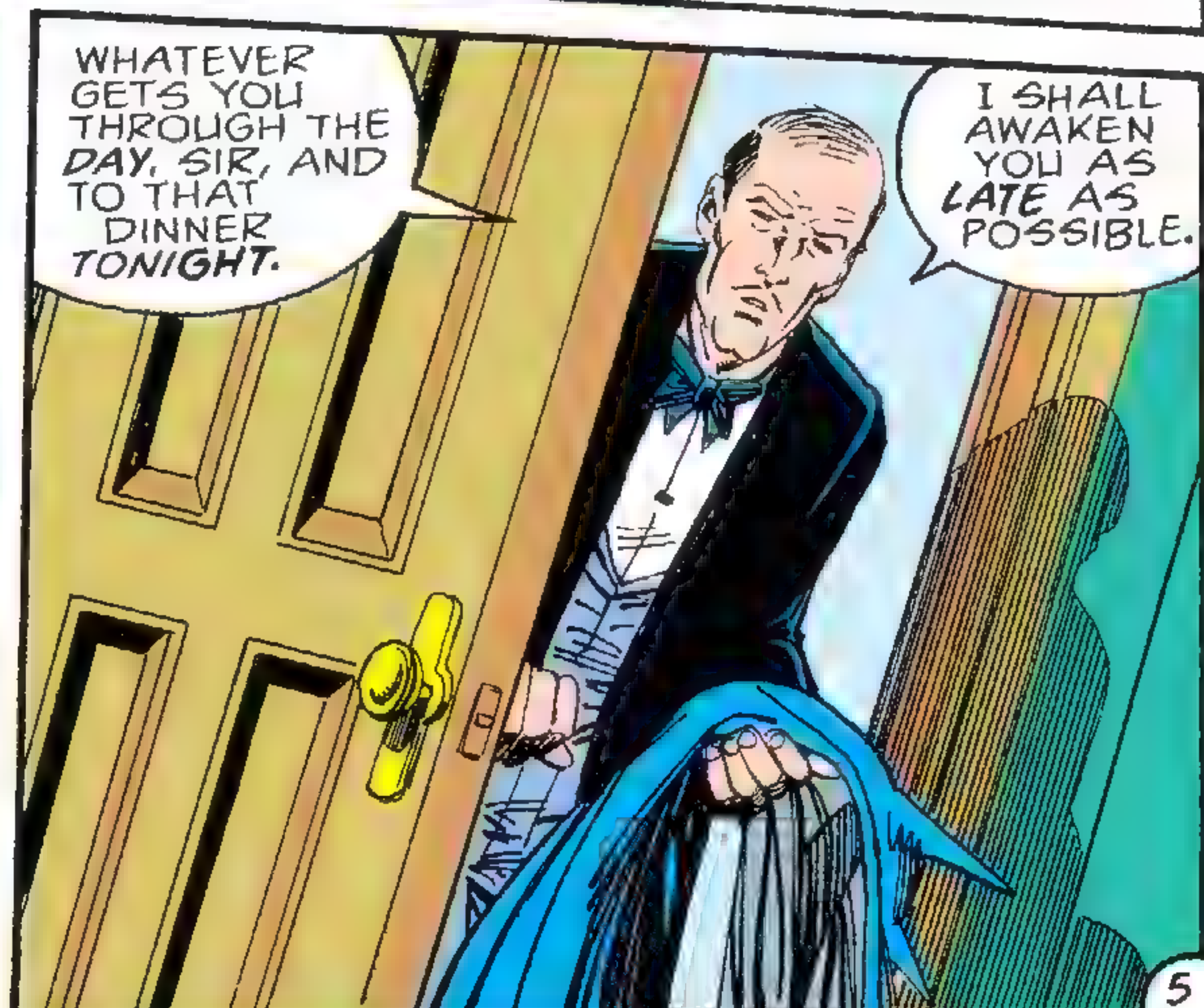
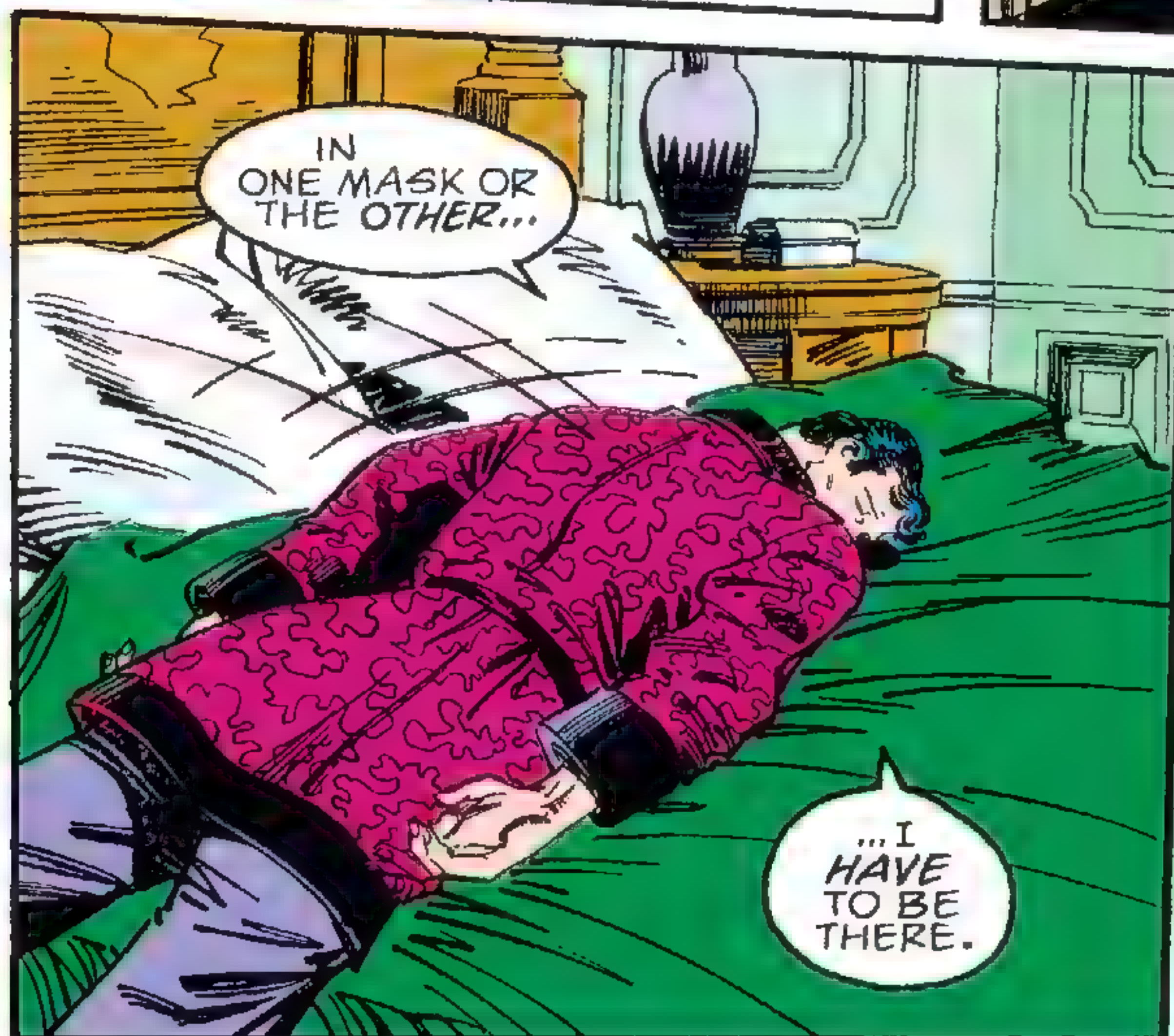
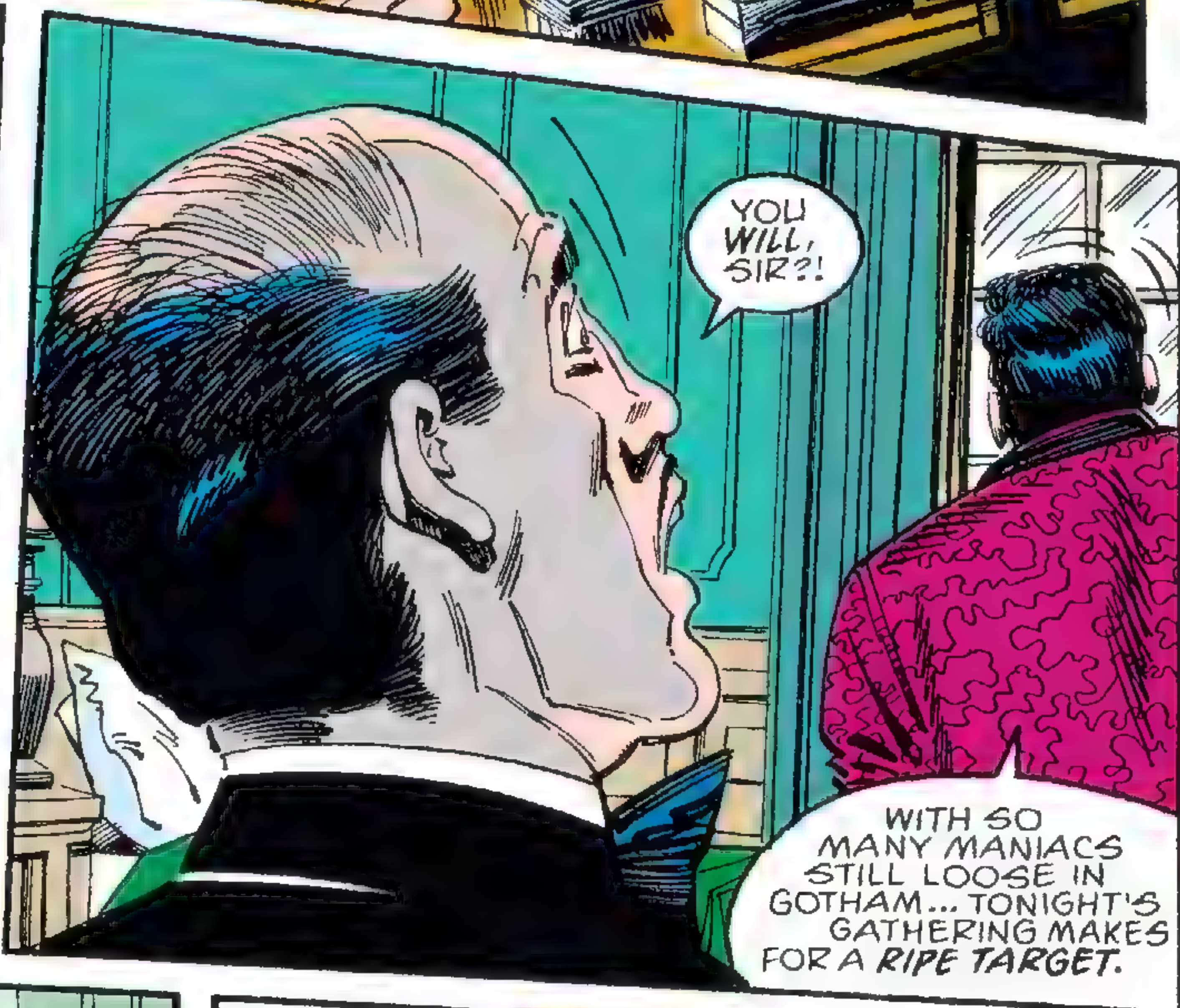
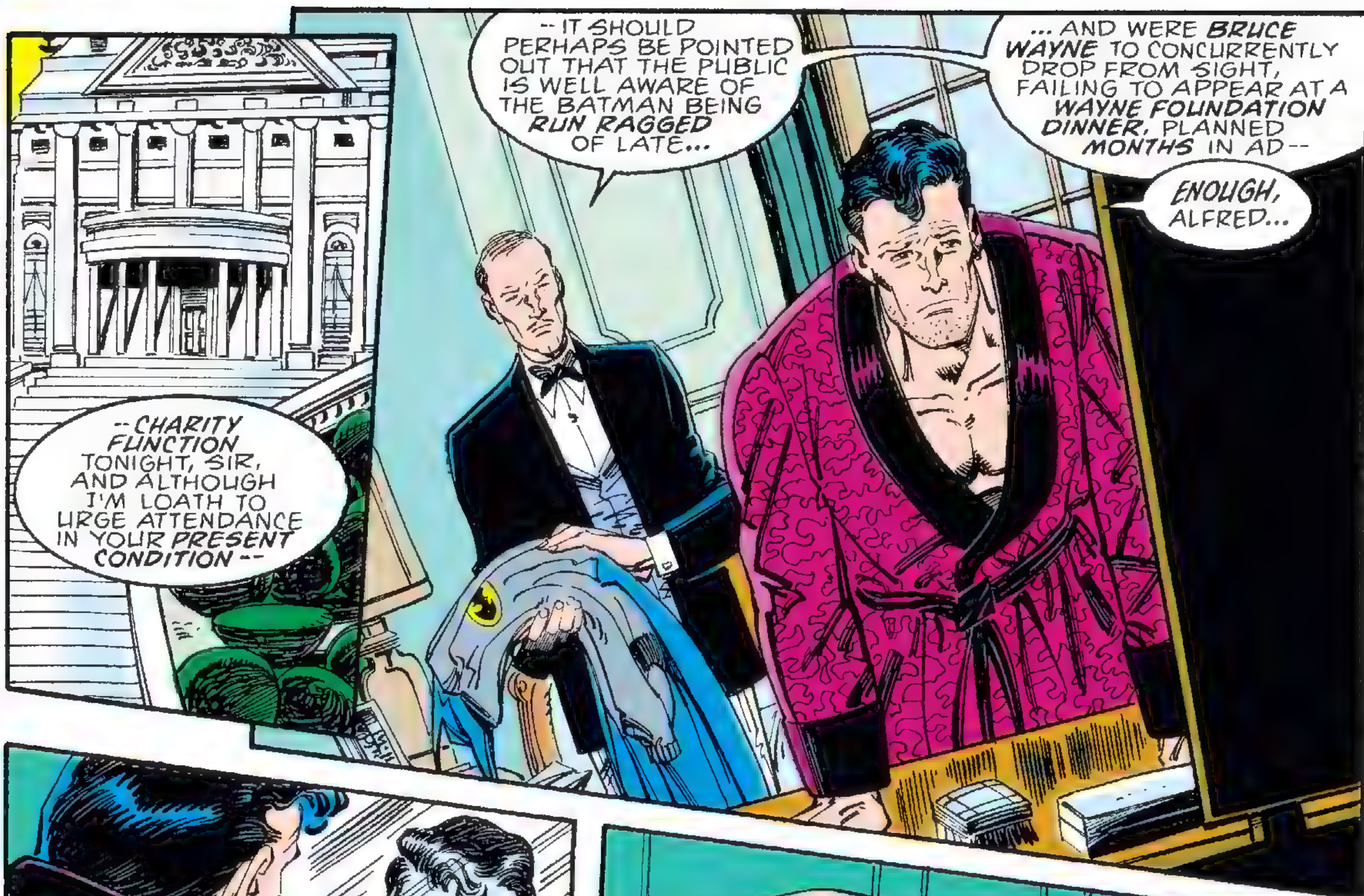
CHAKT



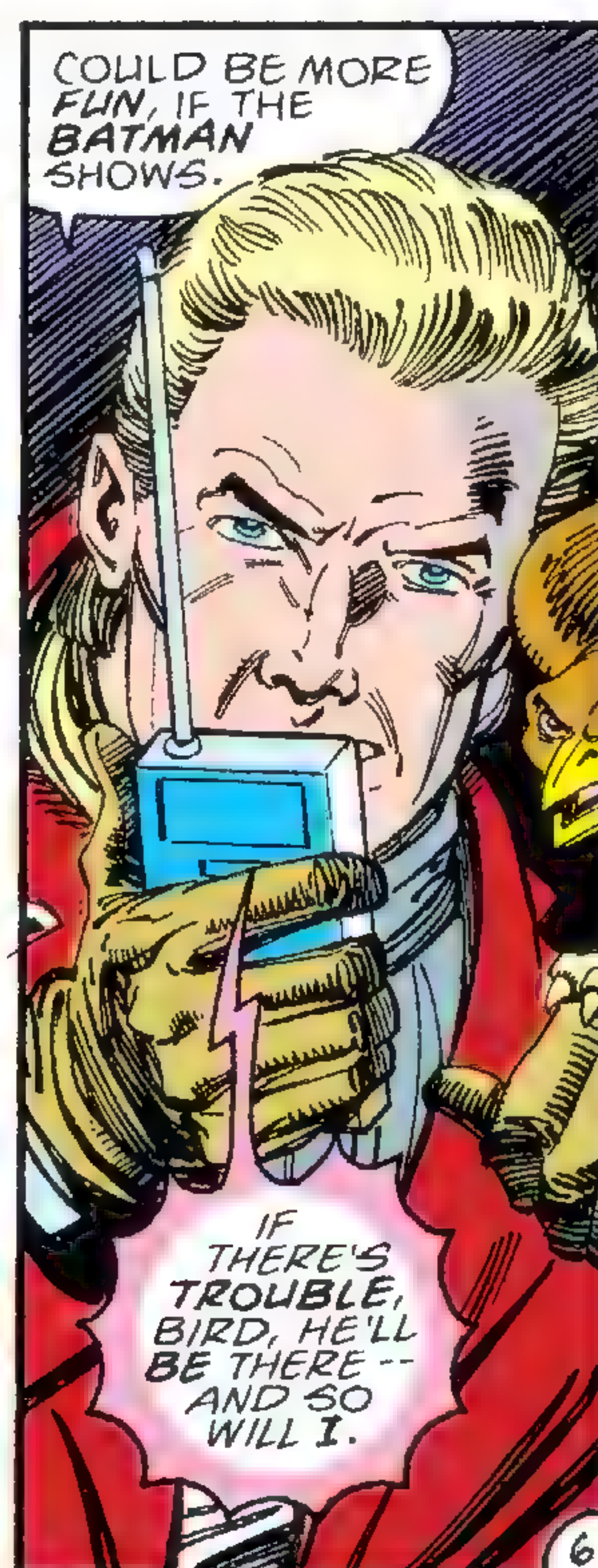
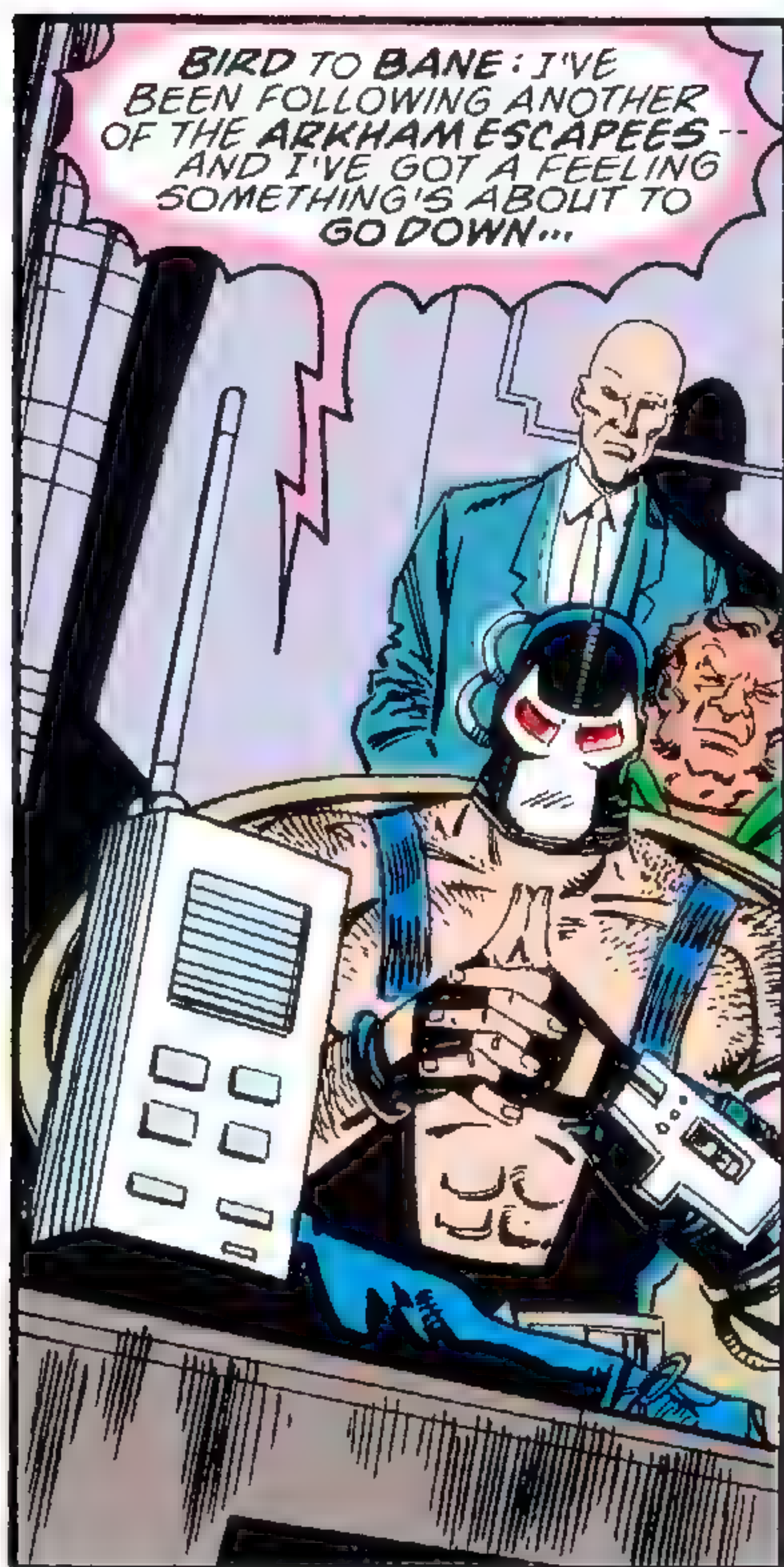
... EVEN  
IF ONLY  
WORTHY OF  
THIS IMITATION  
COSTUME,  
NEITHER  
AZRAEL NOR  
BATMAN.

AND  
SINCE  
CALISTHENICS  
PROVE NOTHING,  
IT'S TIME TO  
TEST MYSELF  
BY "FIRE" --  
FOR REAL AND  
WITHOUT  
ROBIN.

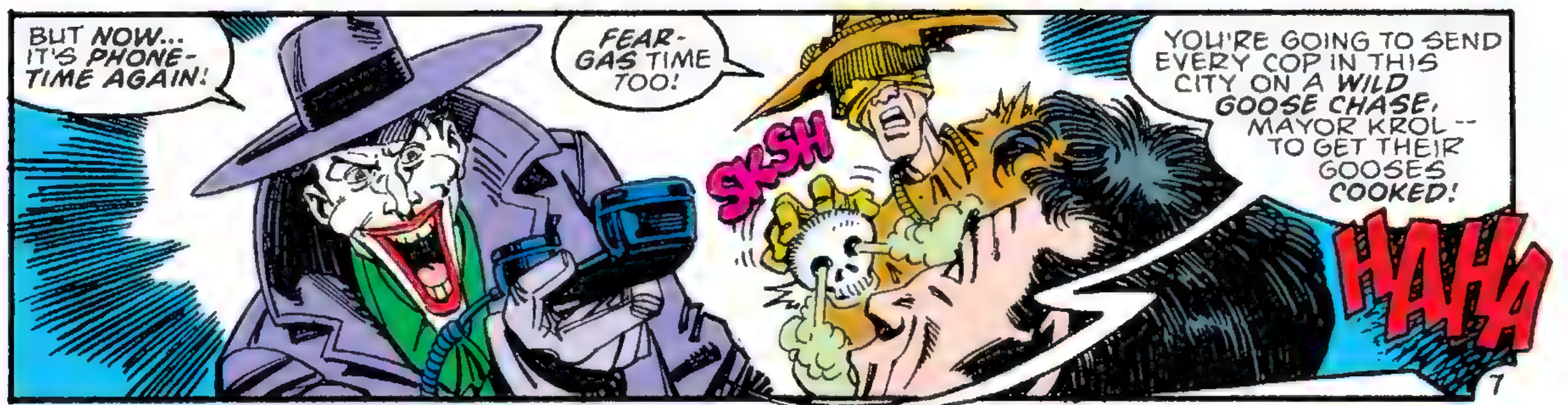
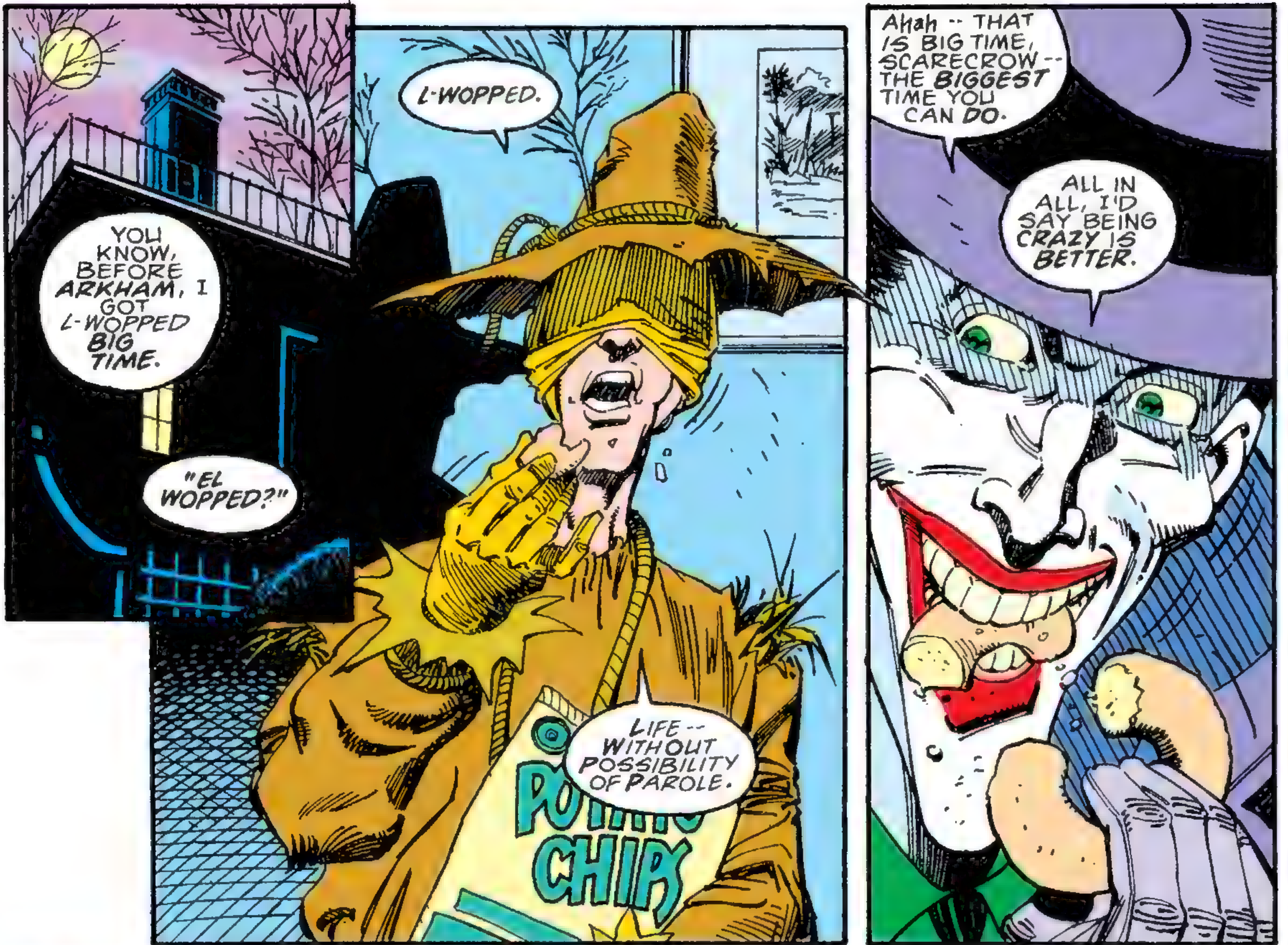




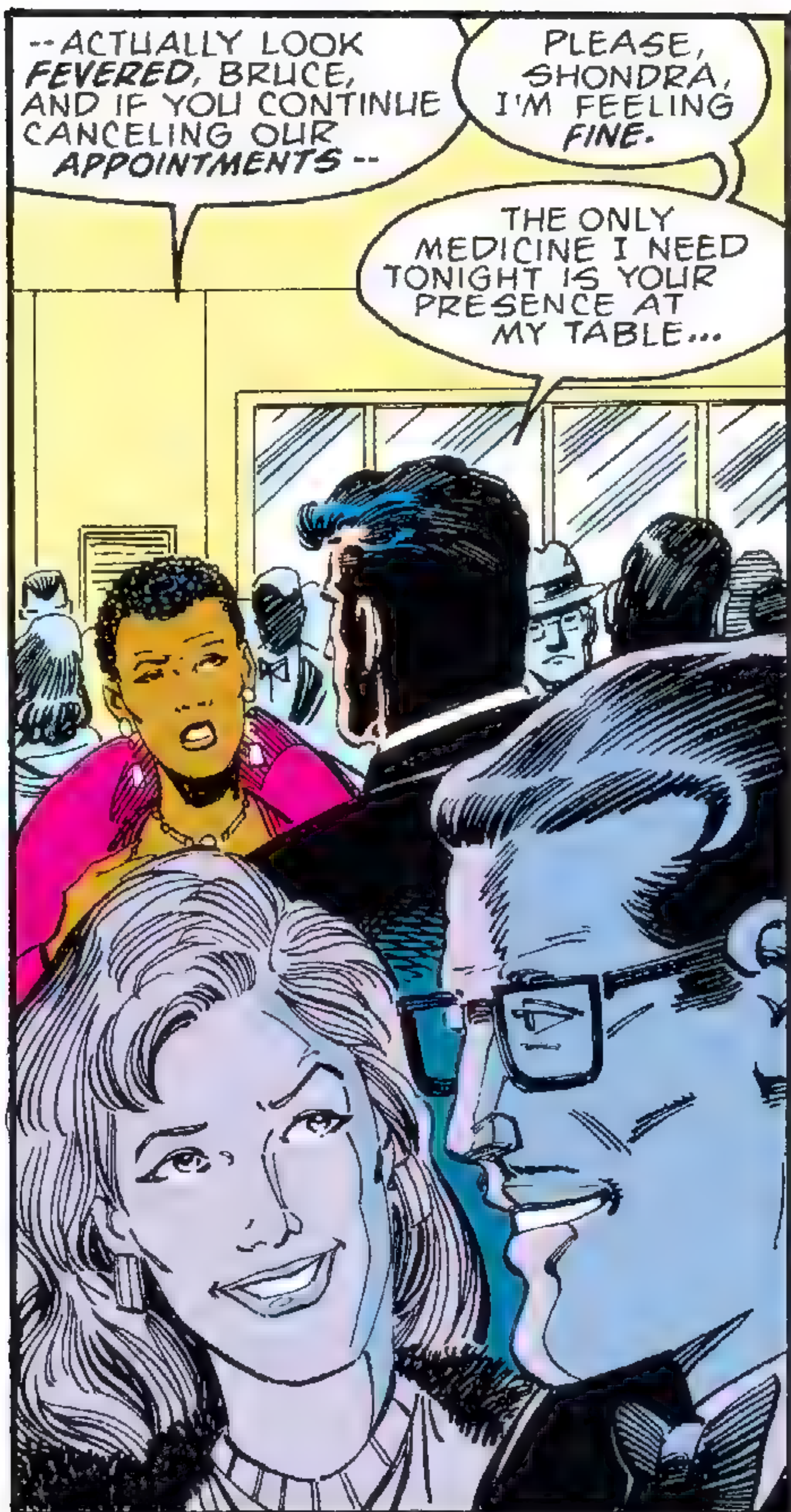




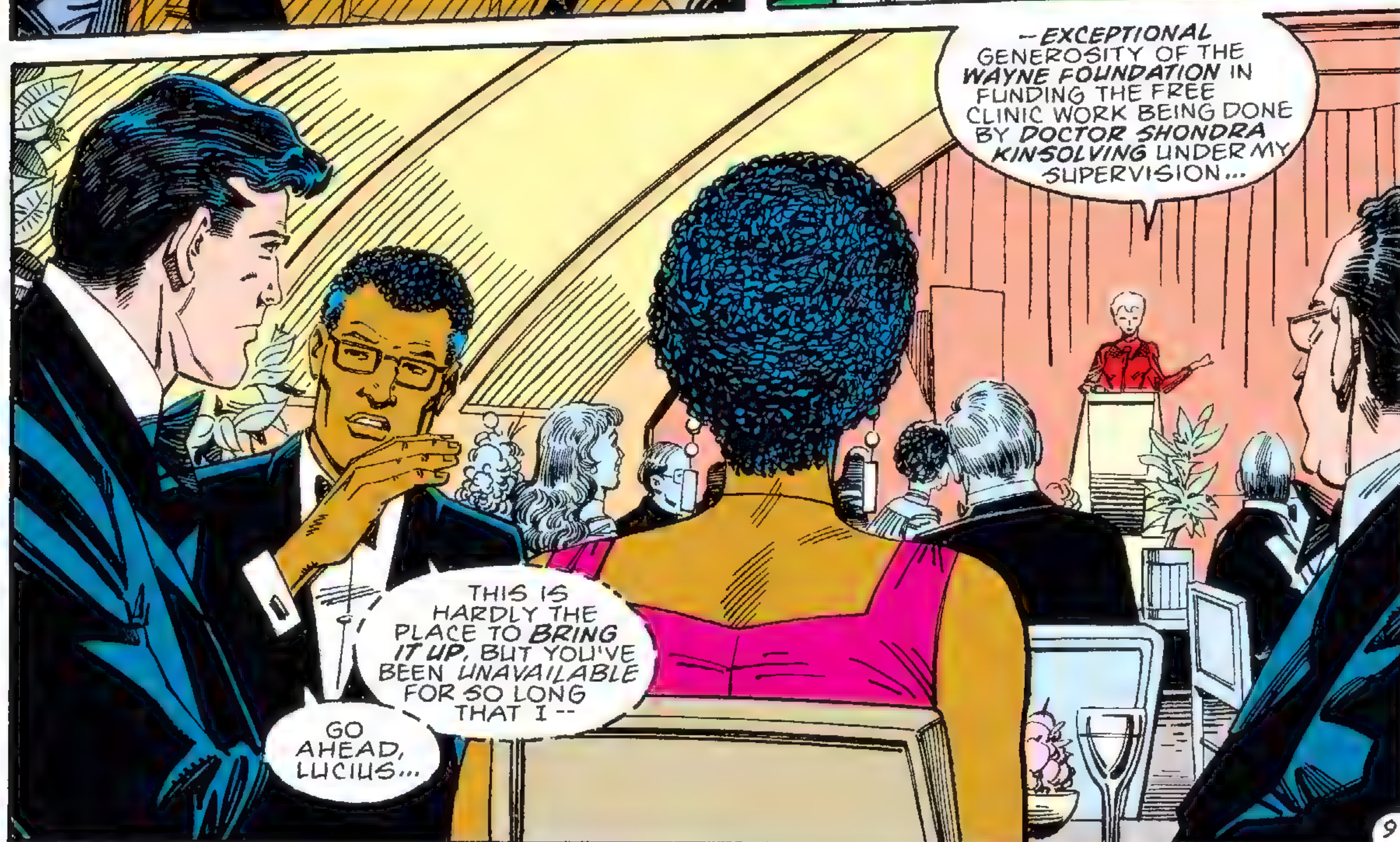
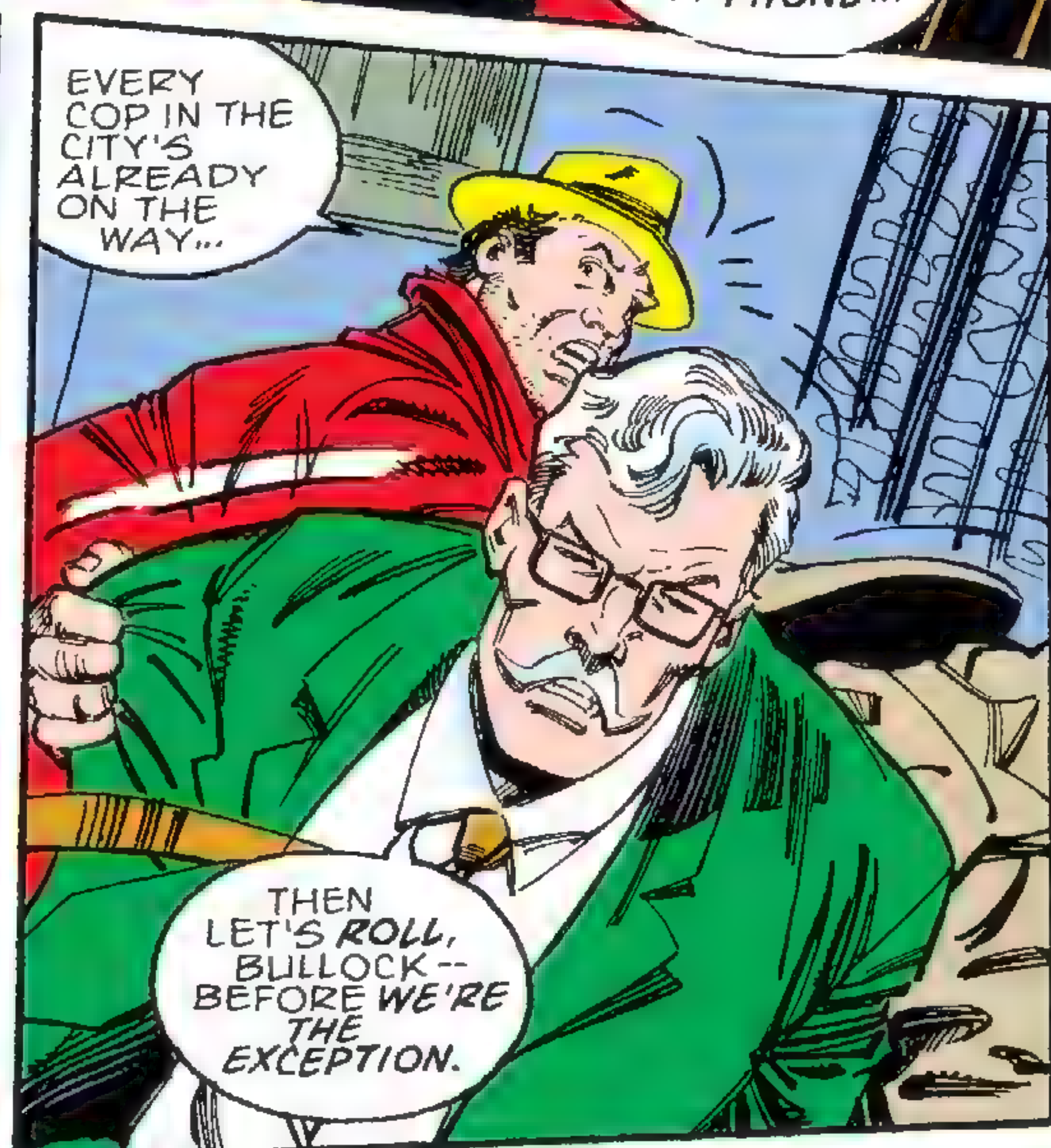
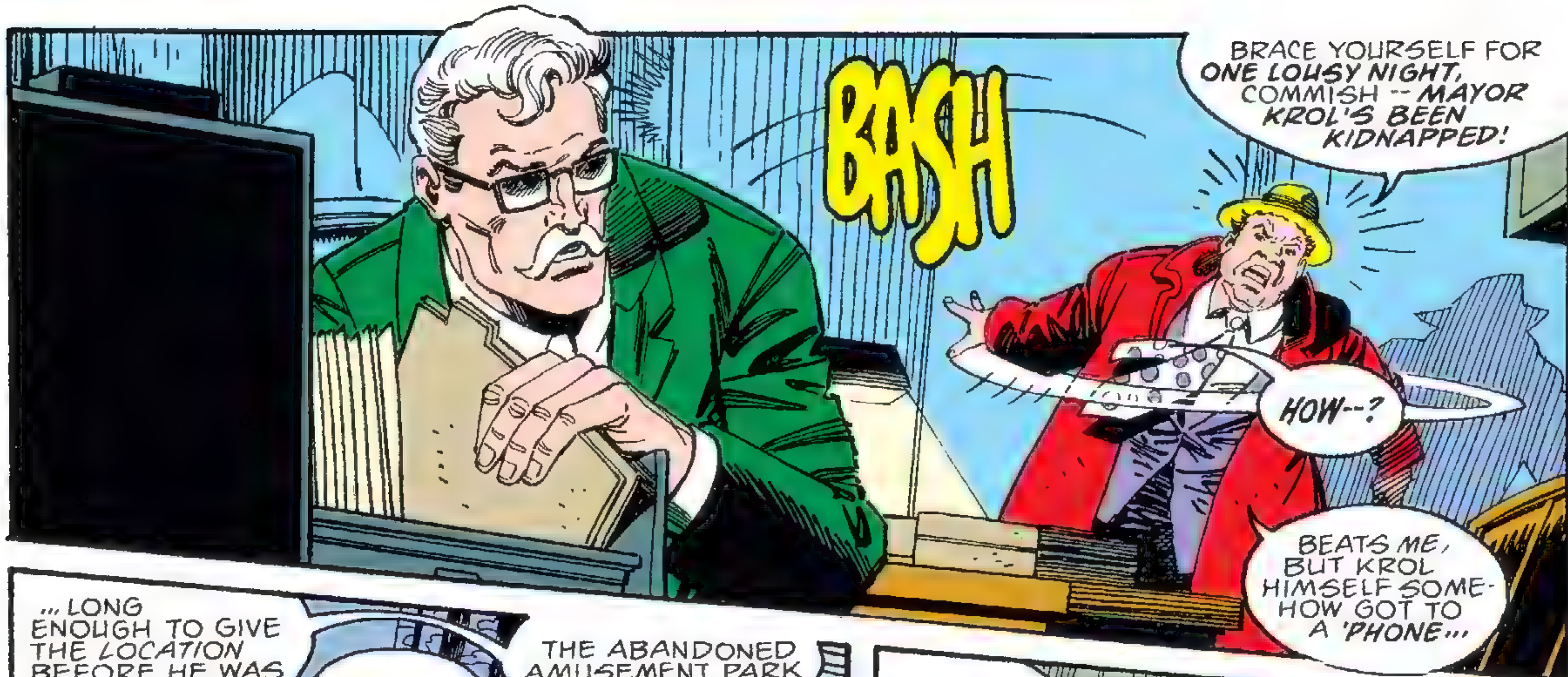




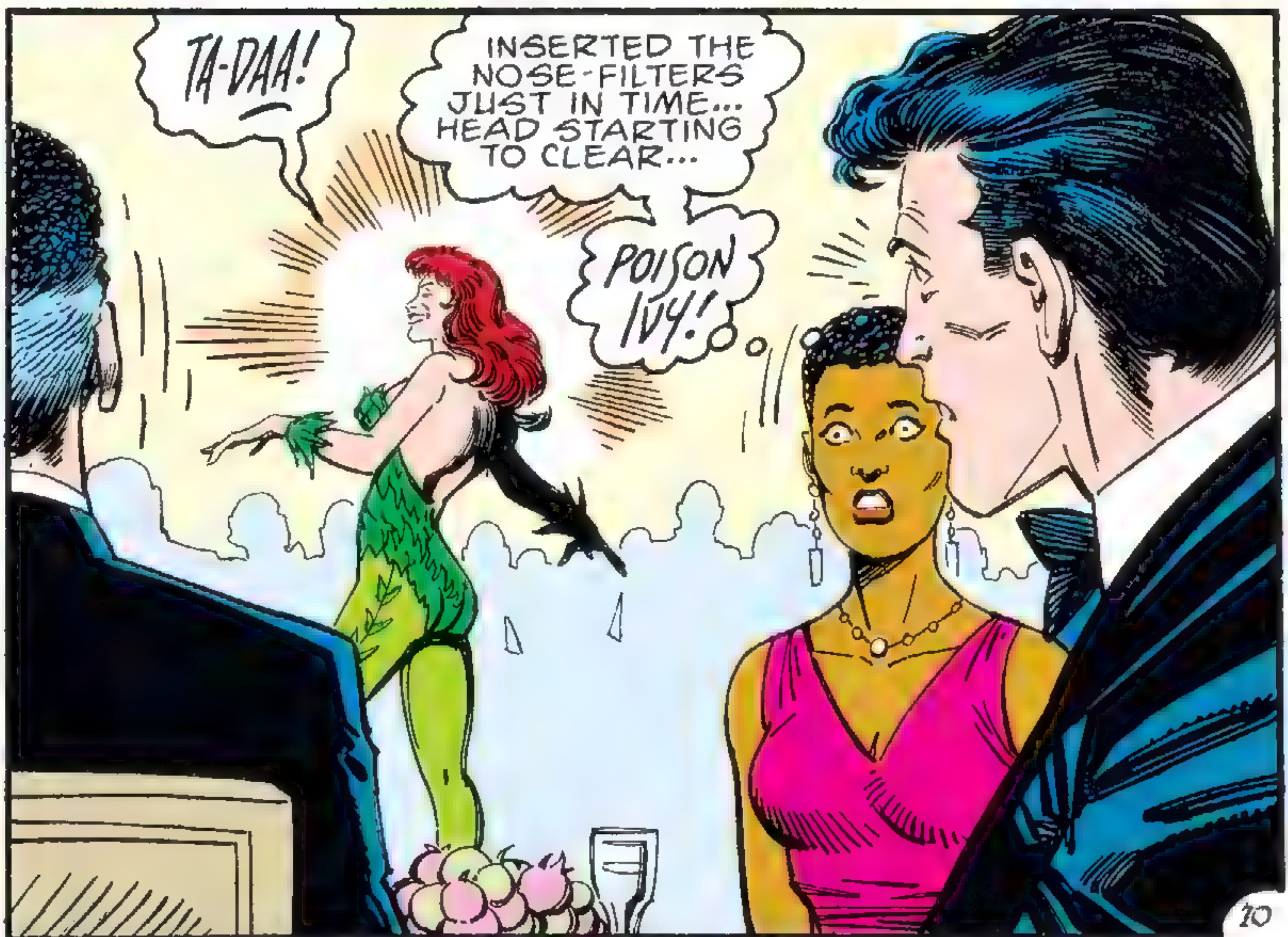
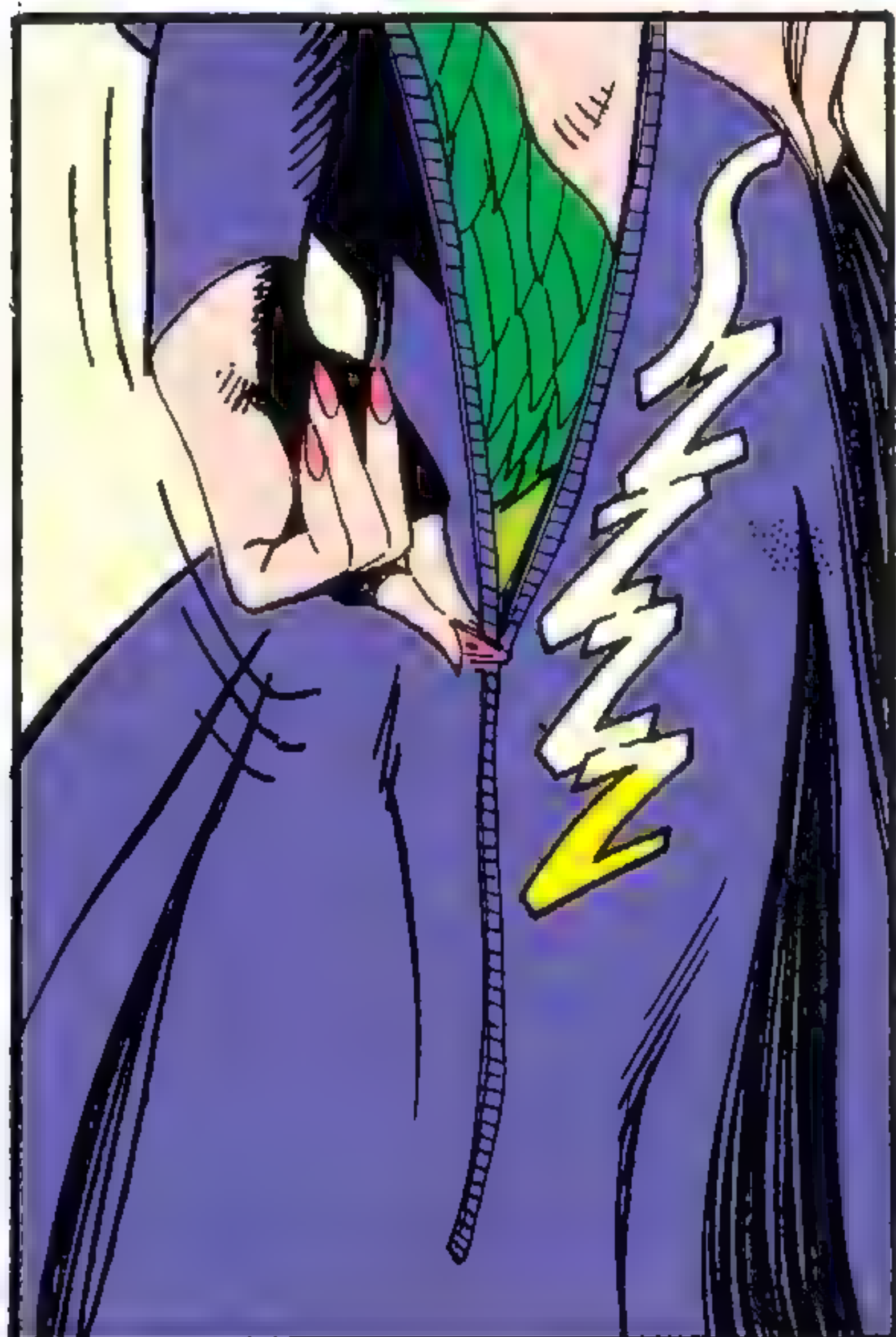
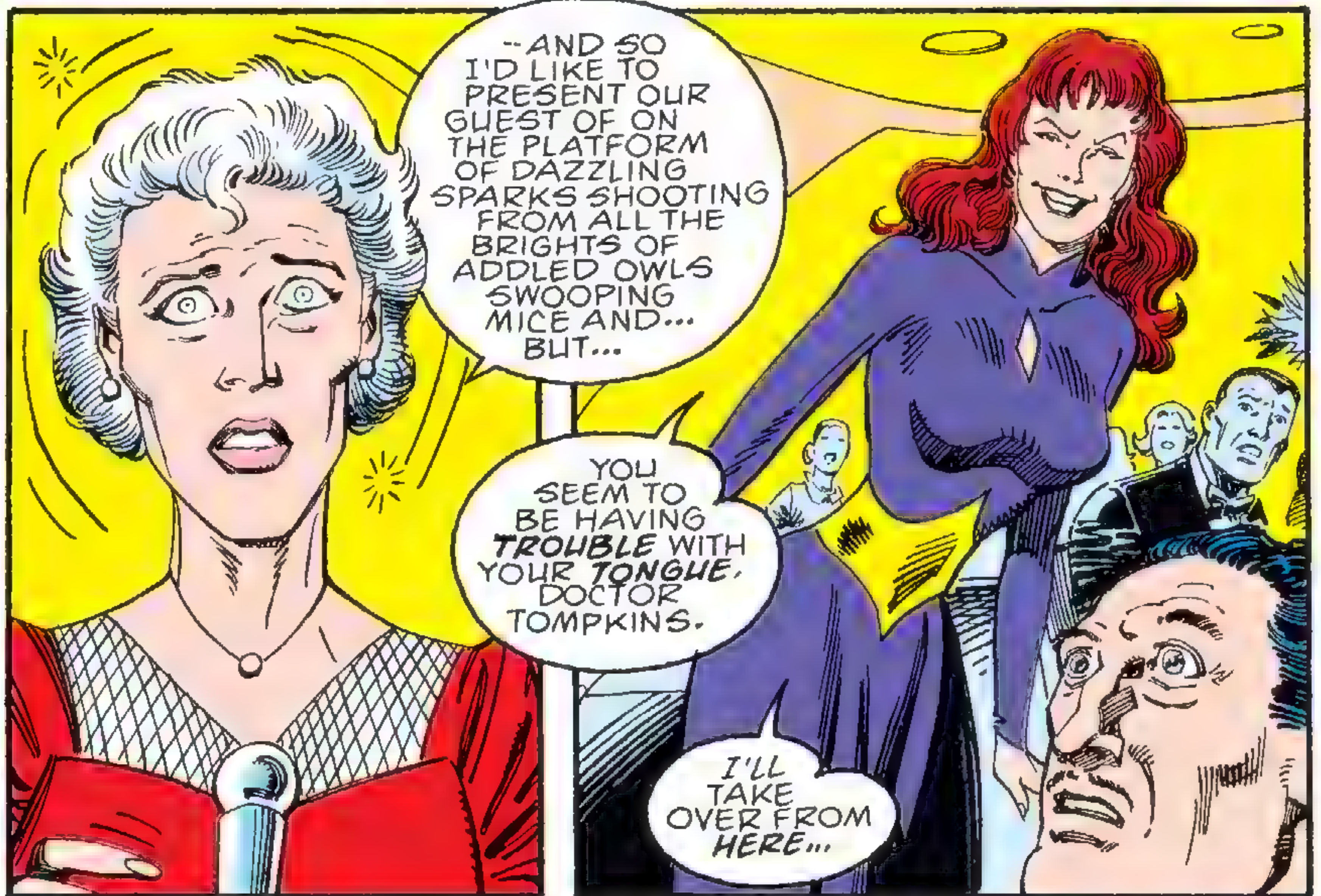
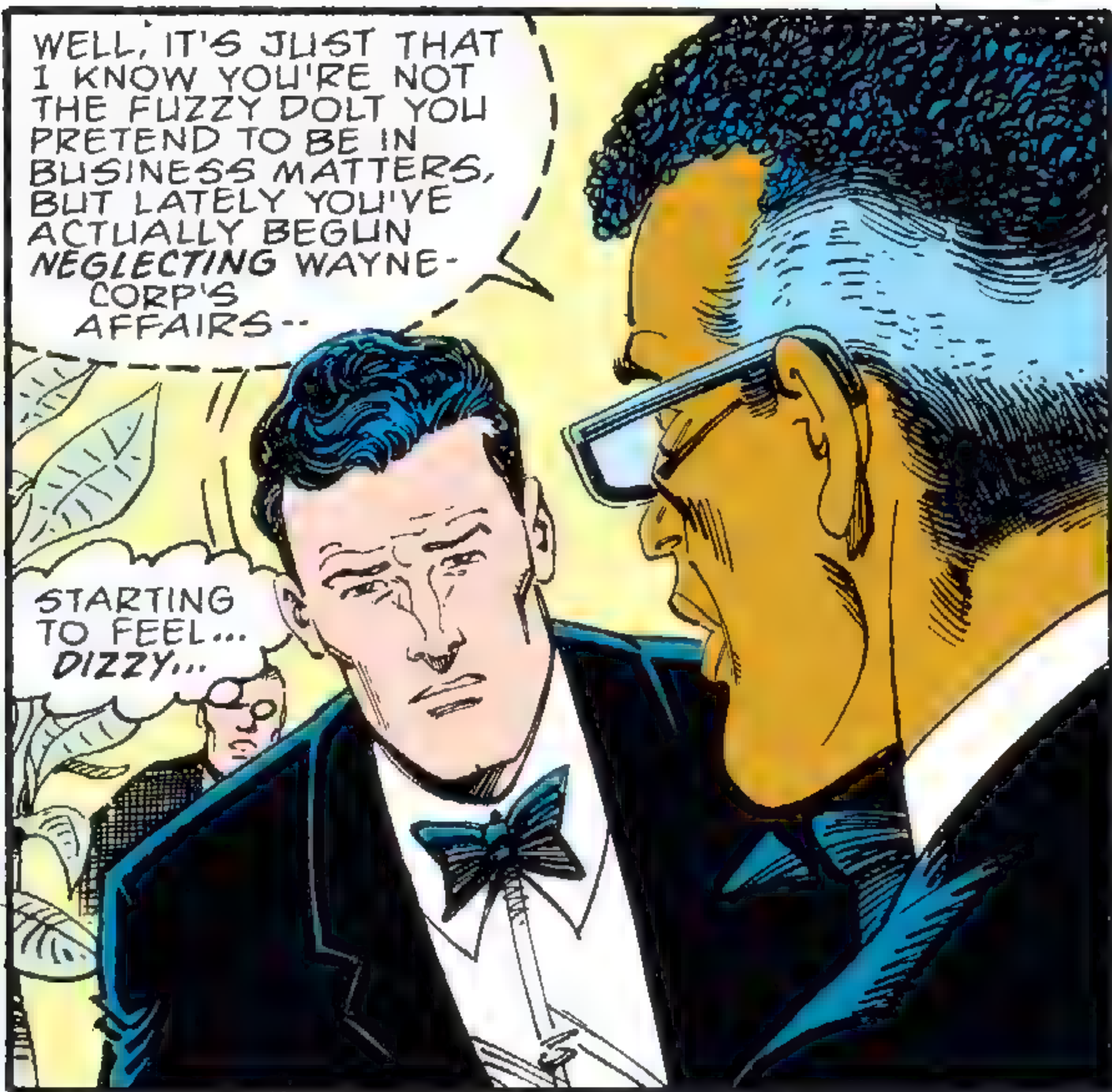




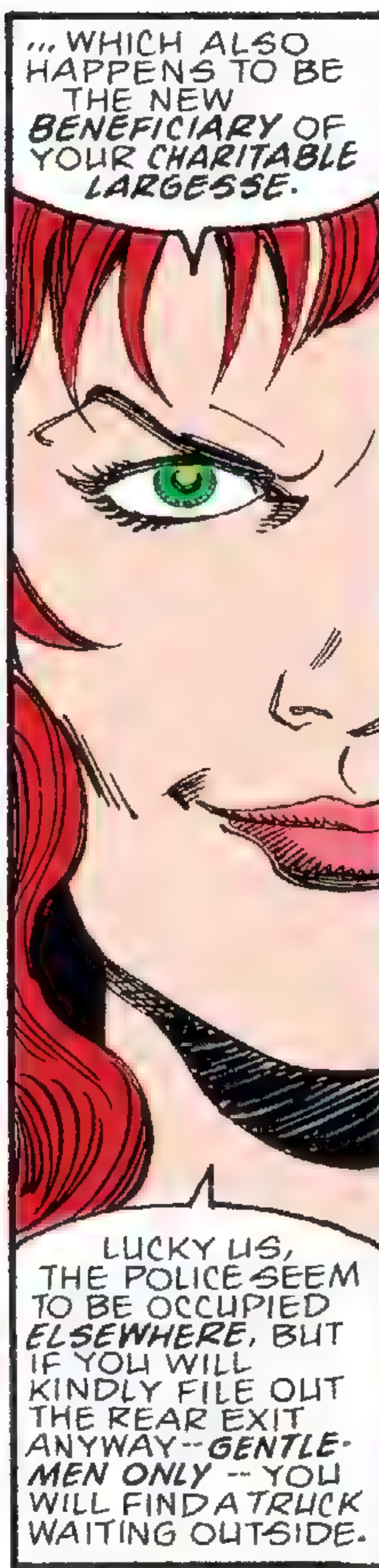




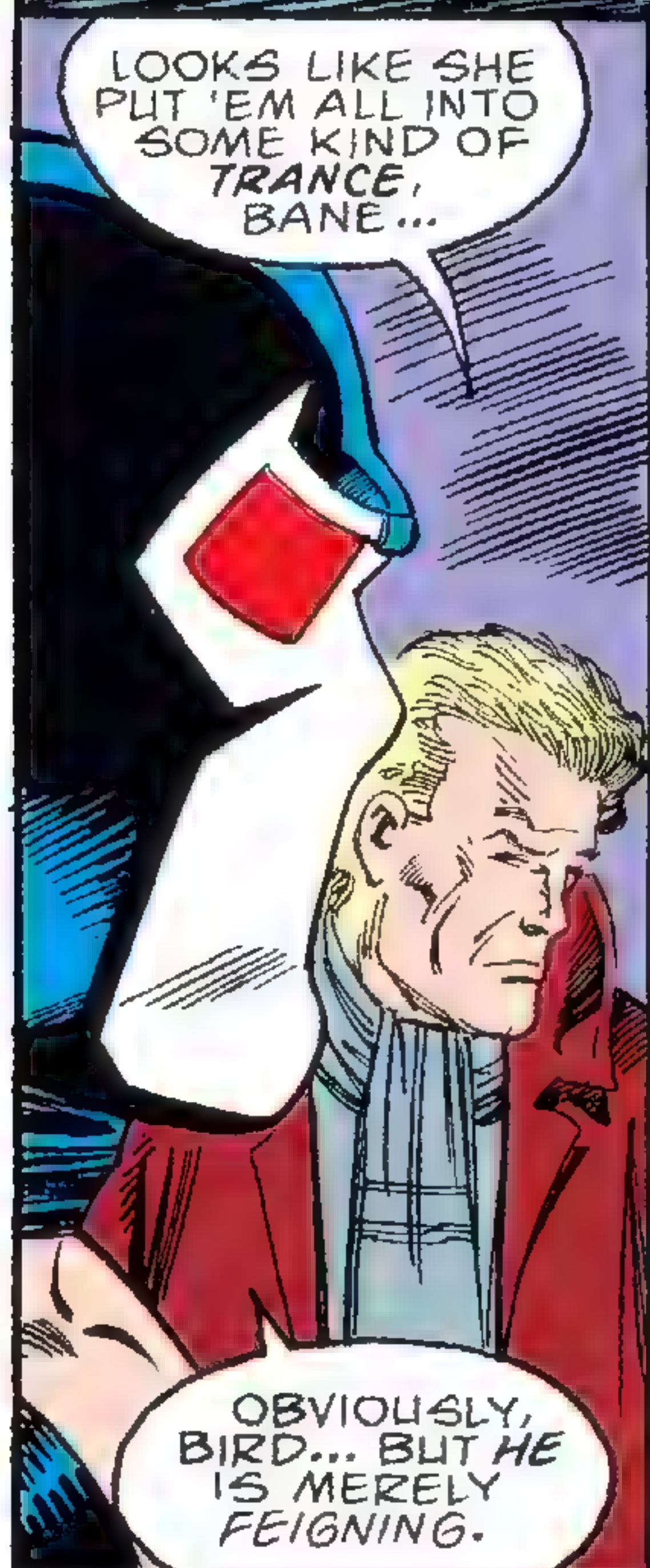
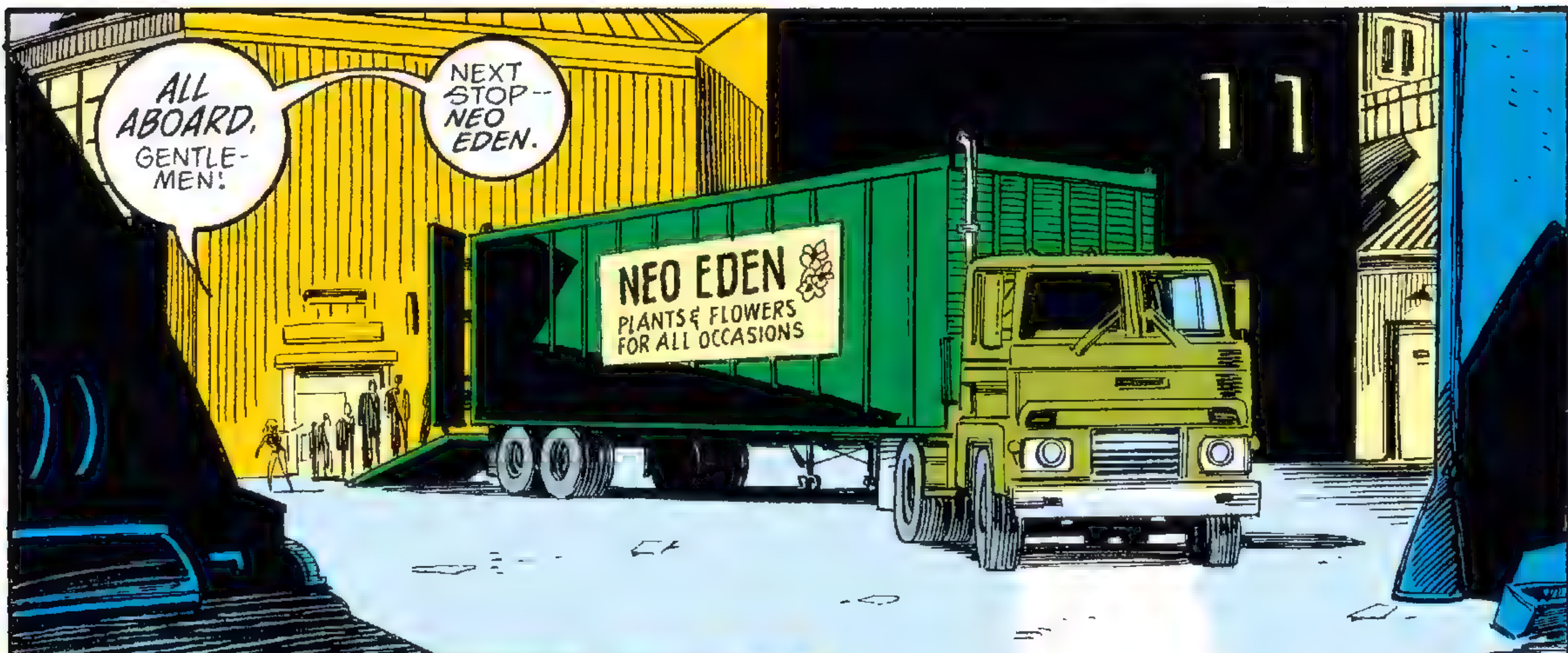




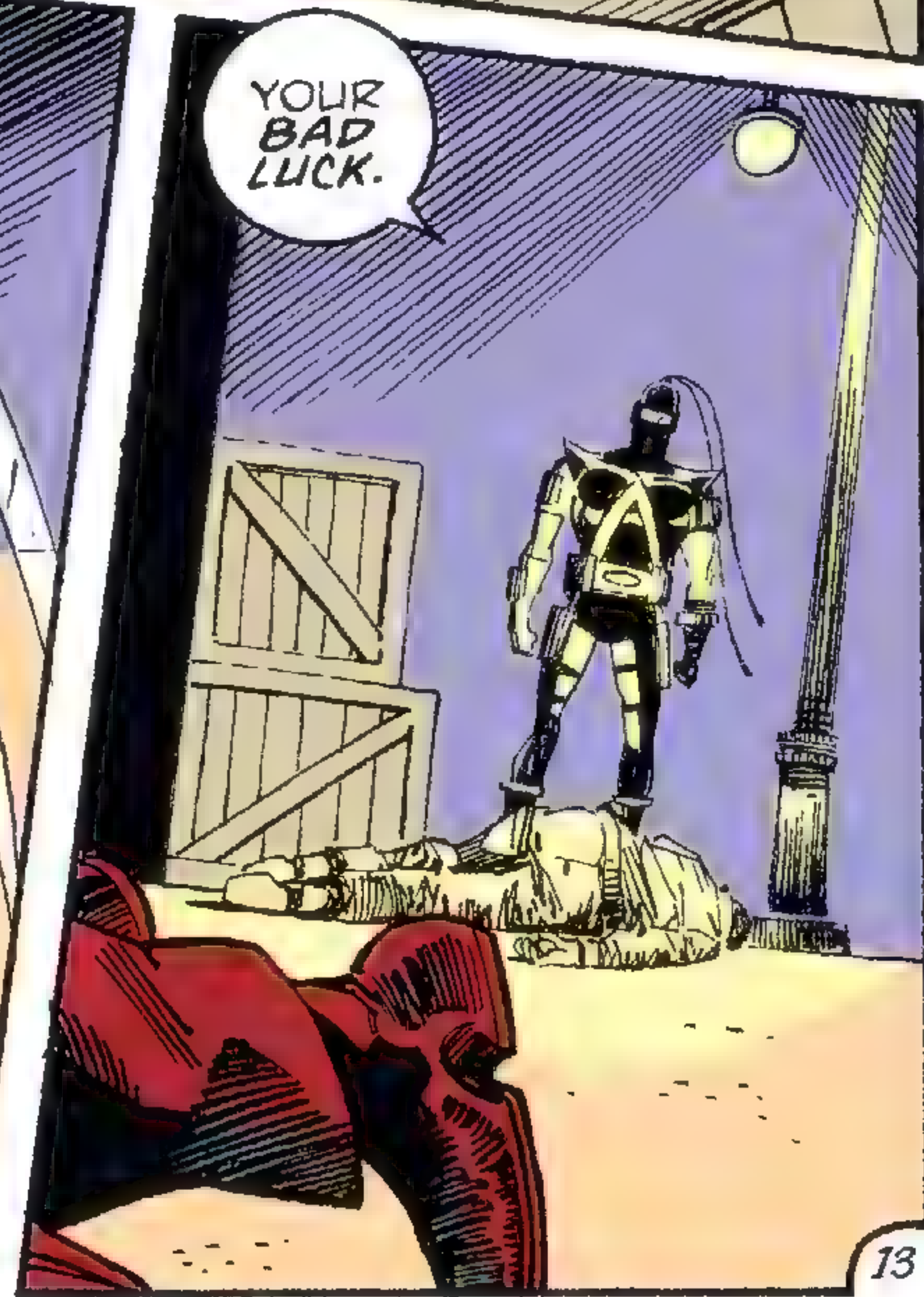
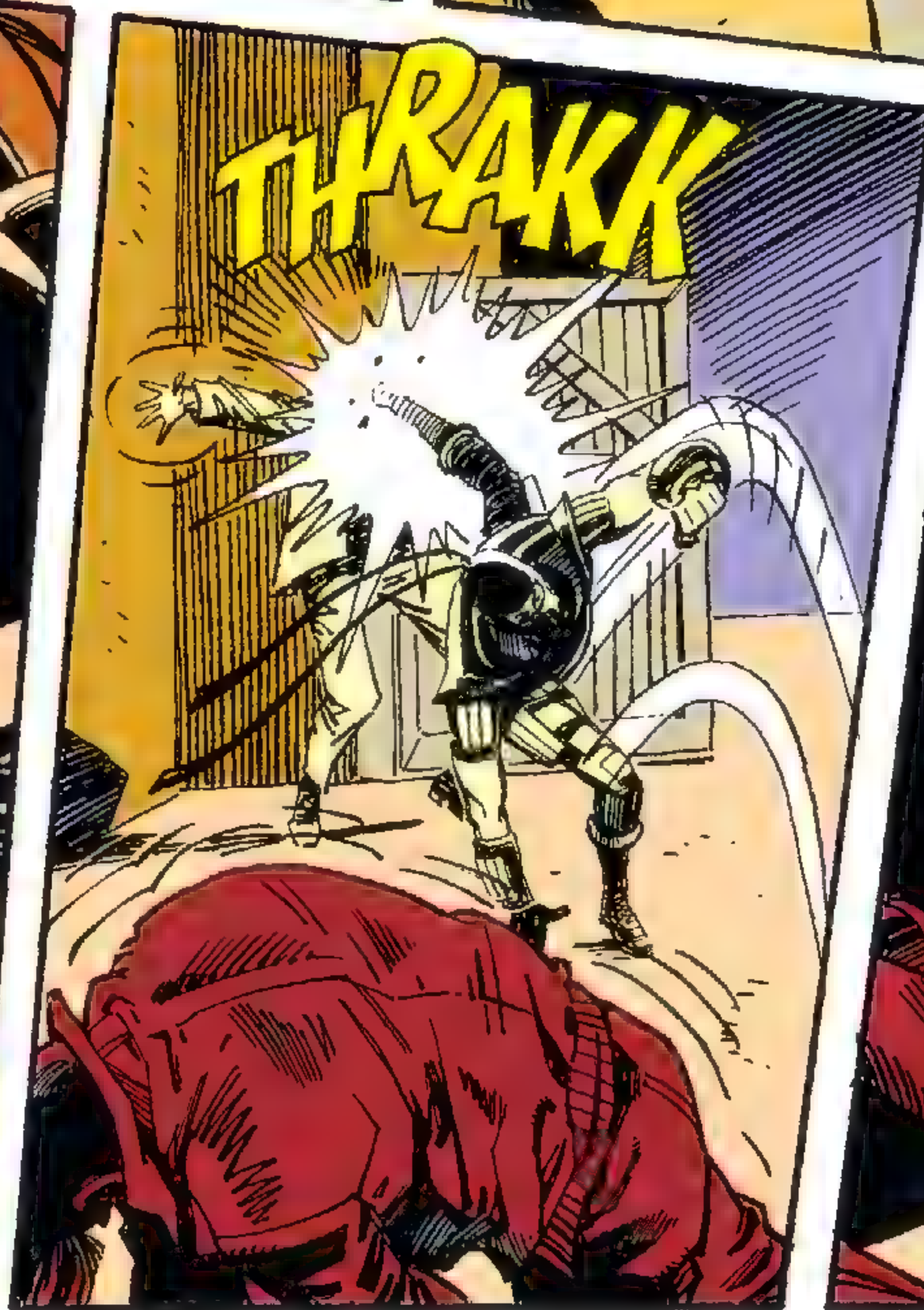
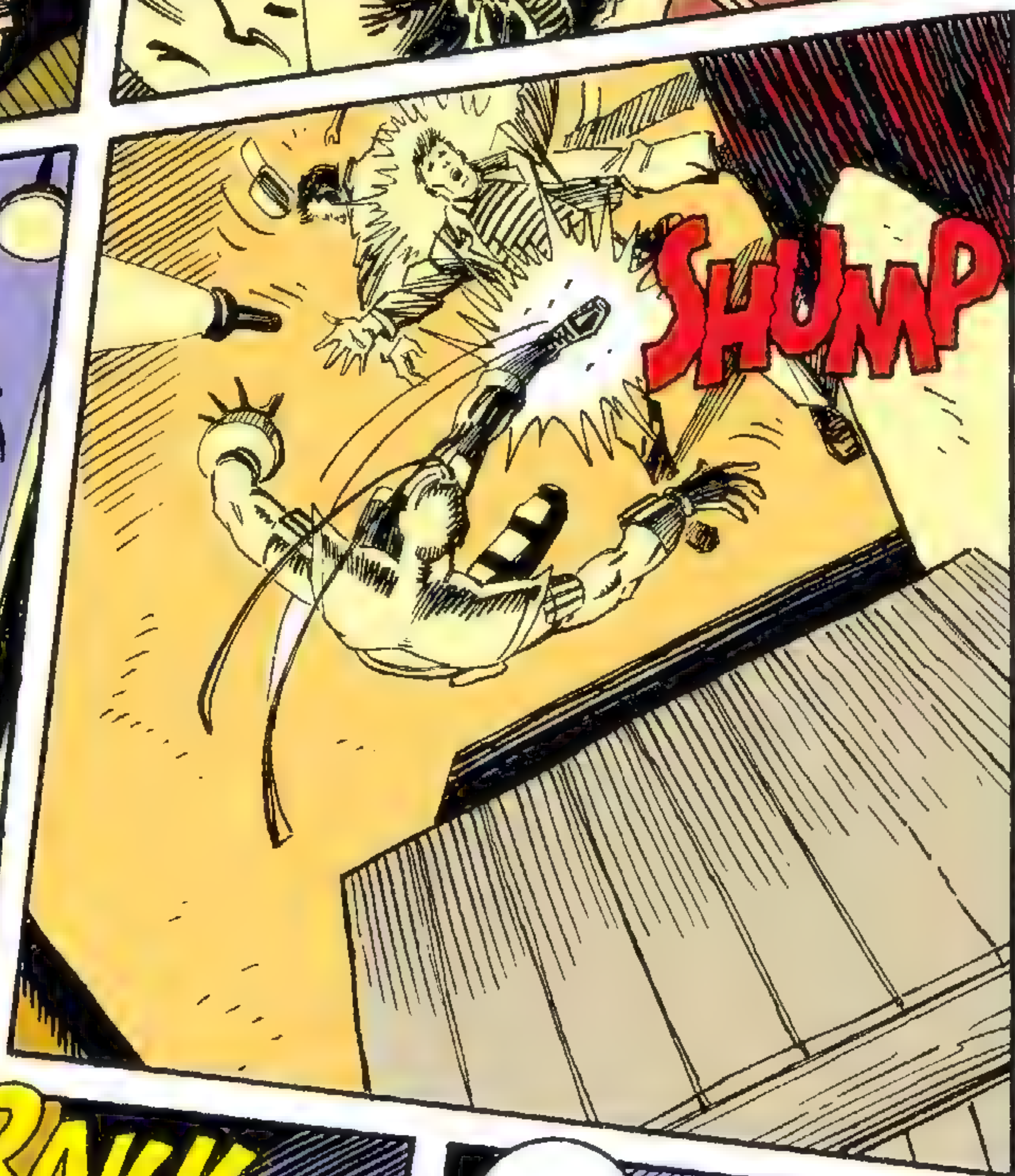
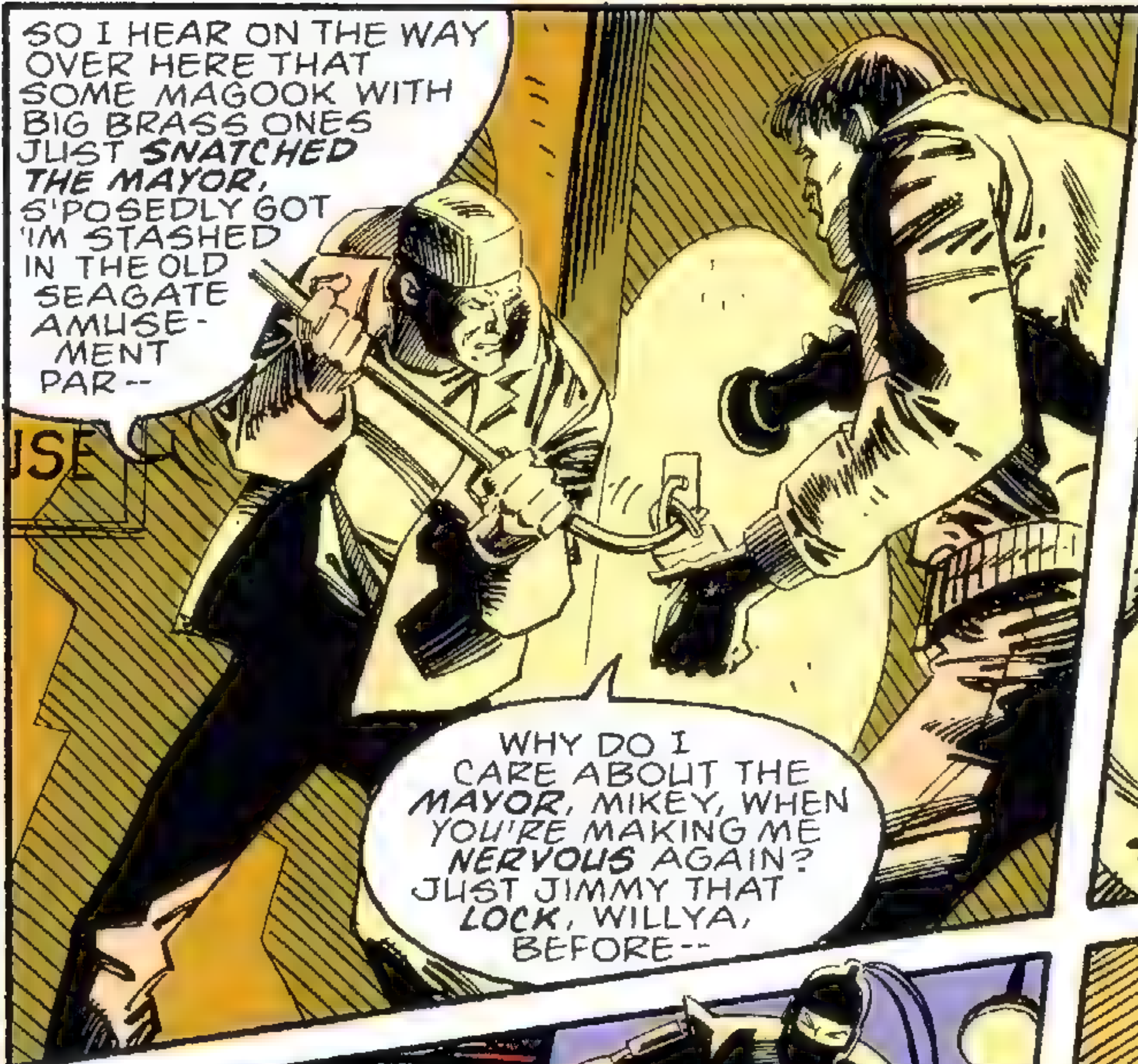














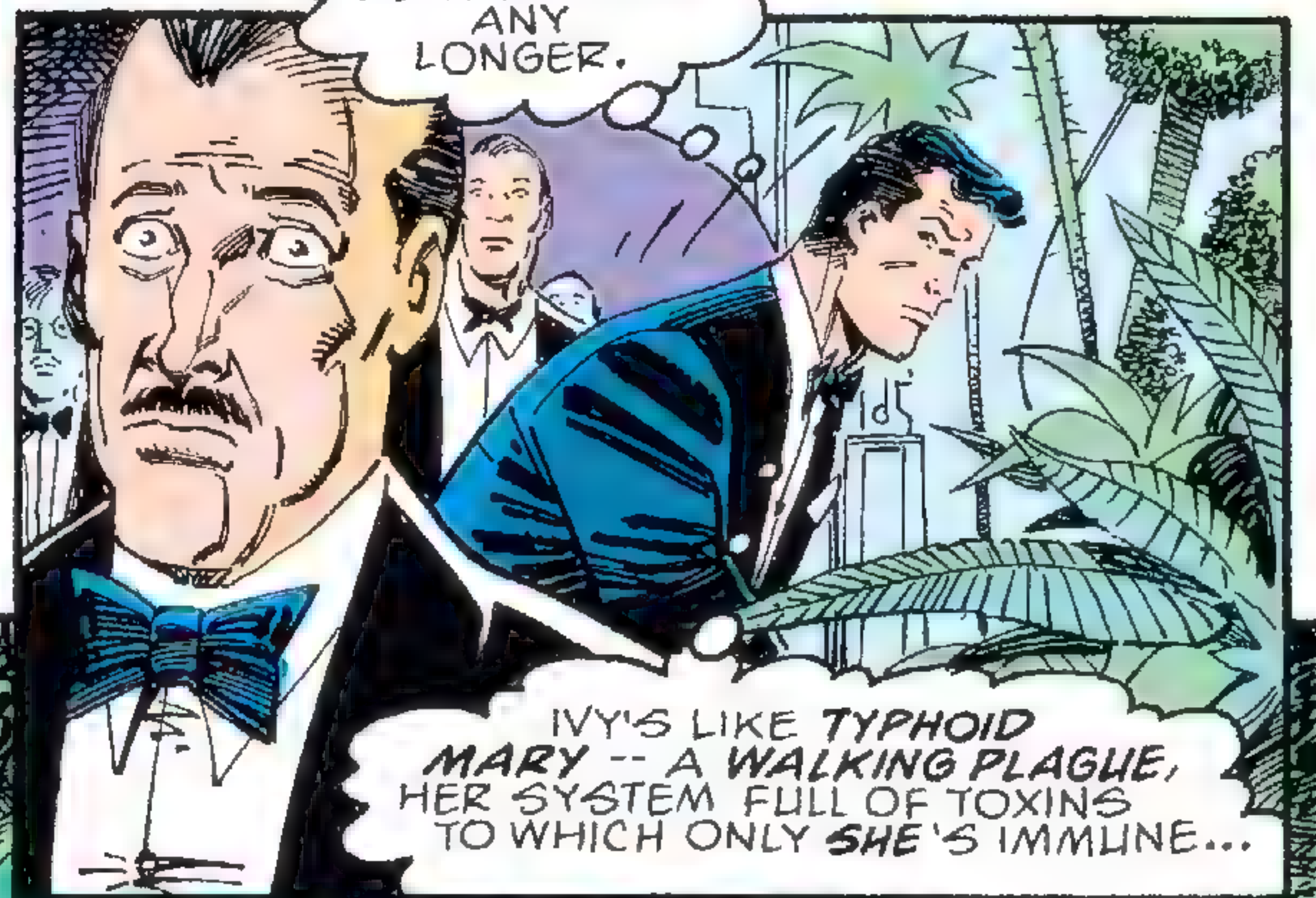


WELCOME TO NEO EDEN, GENTLEMEN, ONE OF MY HOMES AWAY FROM HOME -- EVEN BEFORE I LAST ENJOYED ARKHAM'S HOSPITALITY -- AND CONCEALED FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD BY MY OWN BOTANIC TWIST ON THE KUDZU VINE...



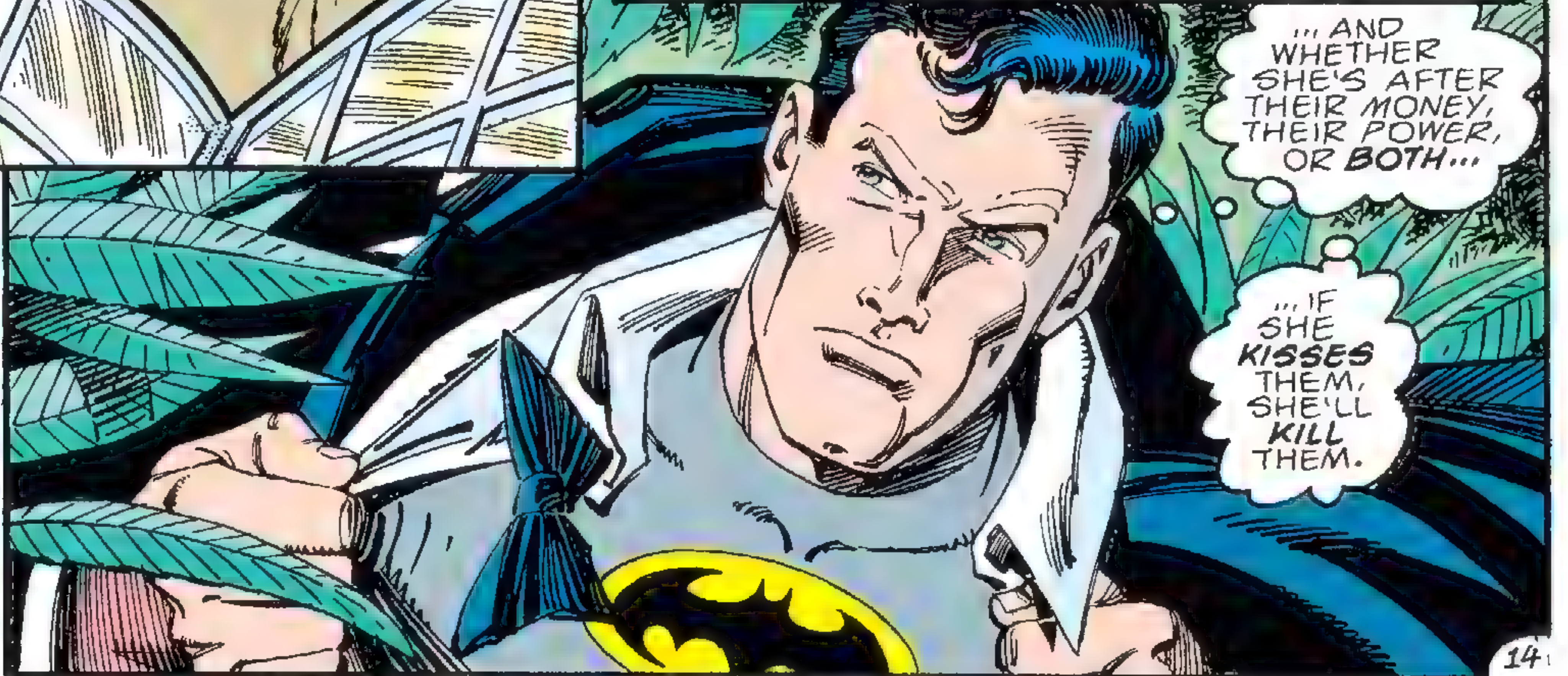
NOW, SINCE THERE'S NO REAL RUSH IN FLEEING YOU, IF YOU'LL ALL LINE UP LIKE THE DEAR SWEET WEALTHY GENTLEMEN YOU ARE...

... I JUST MIGHT FEEL INCLINED TO ADMINISTER YOUR REWARD...



CAN'T AFFORD TO PLAY POSSUM ANY LONGER.

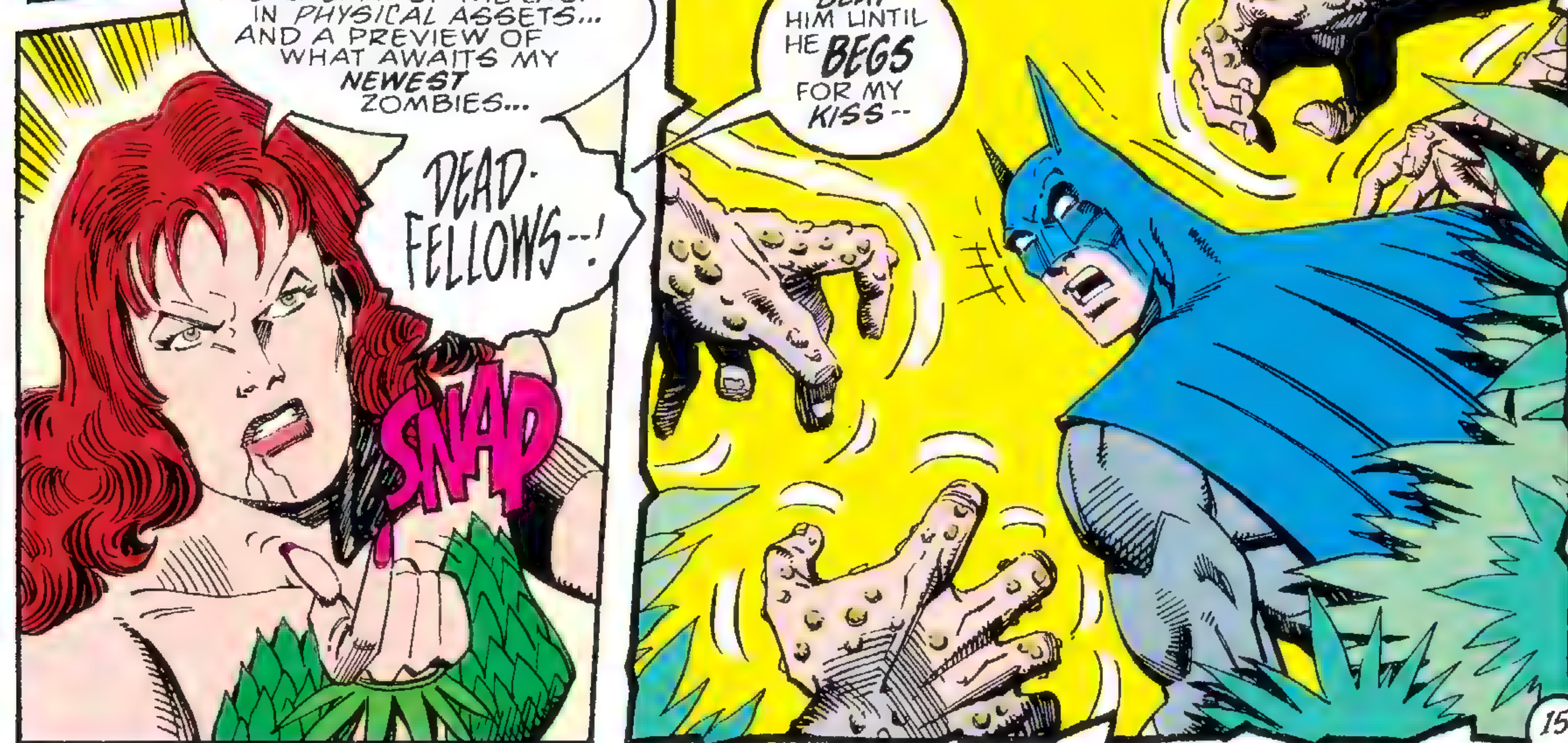
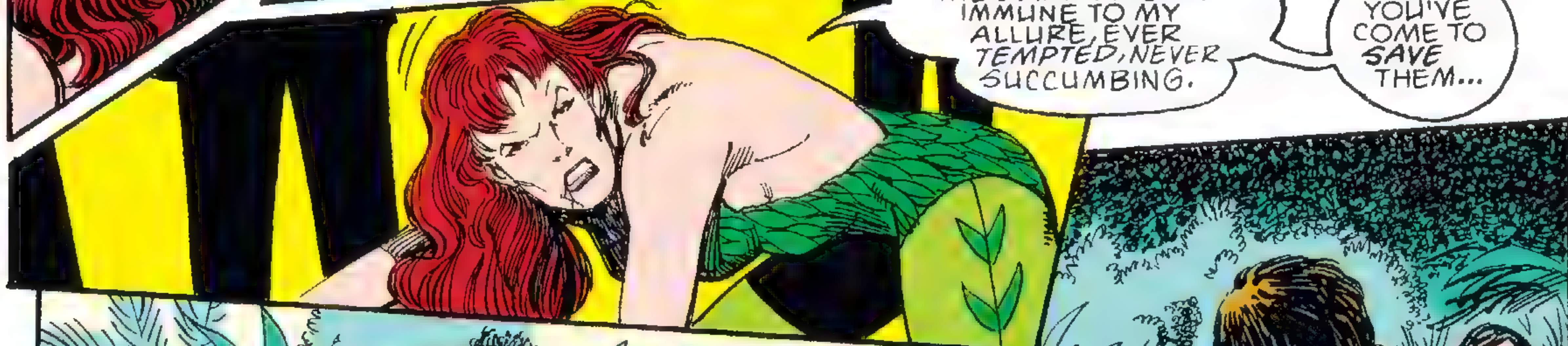
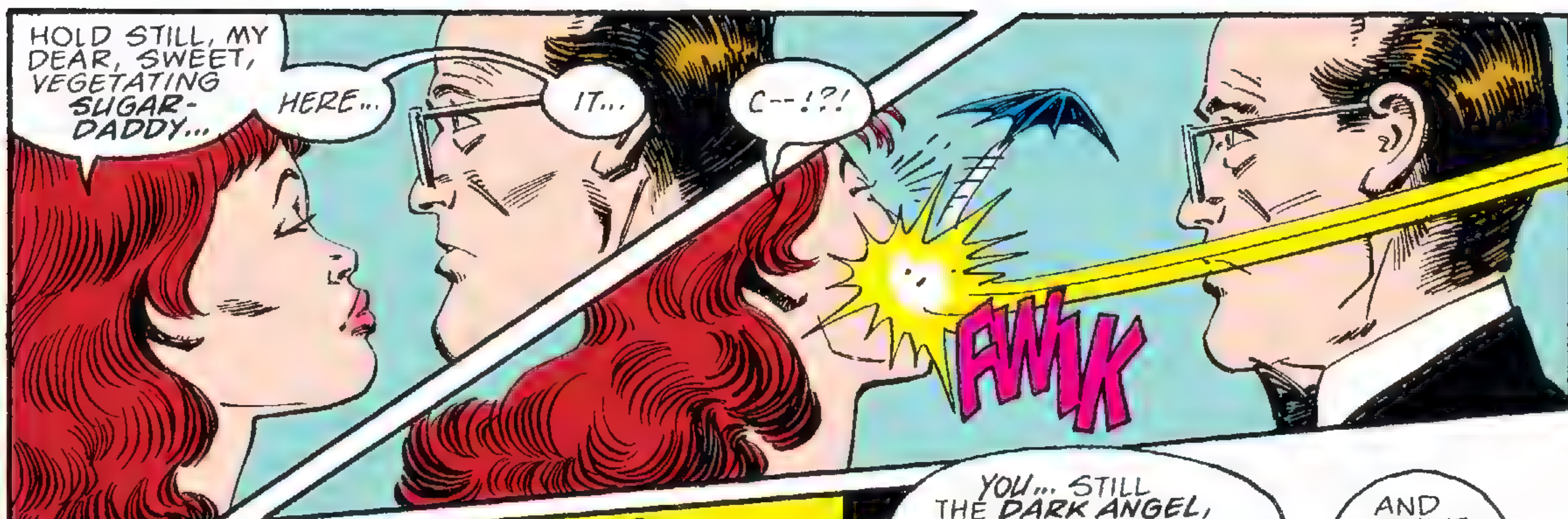
IVY'S LIKE TYPHOID MARY -- A WALKING PLAGUE, HER SYSTEM FULL OF TOXINS TO WHICH ONLY SHE'S IMMUNE...



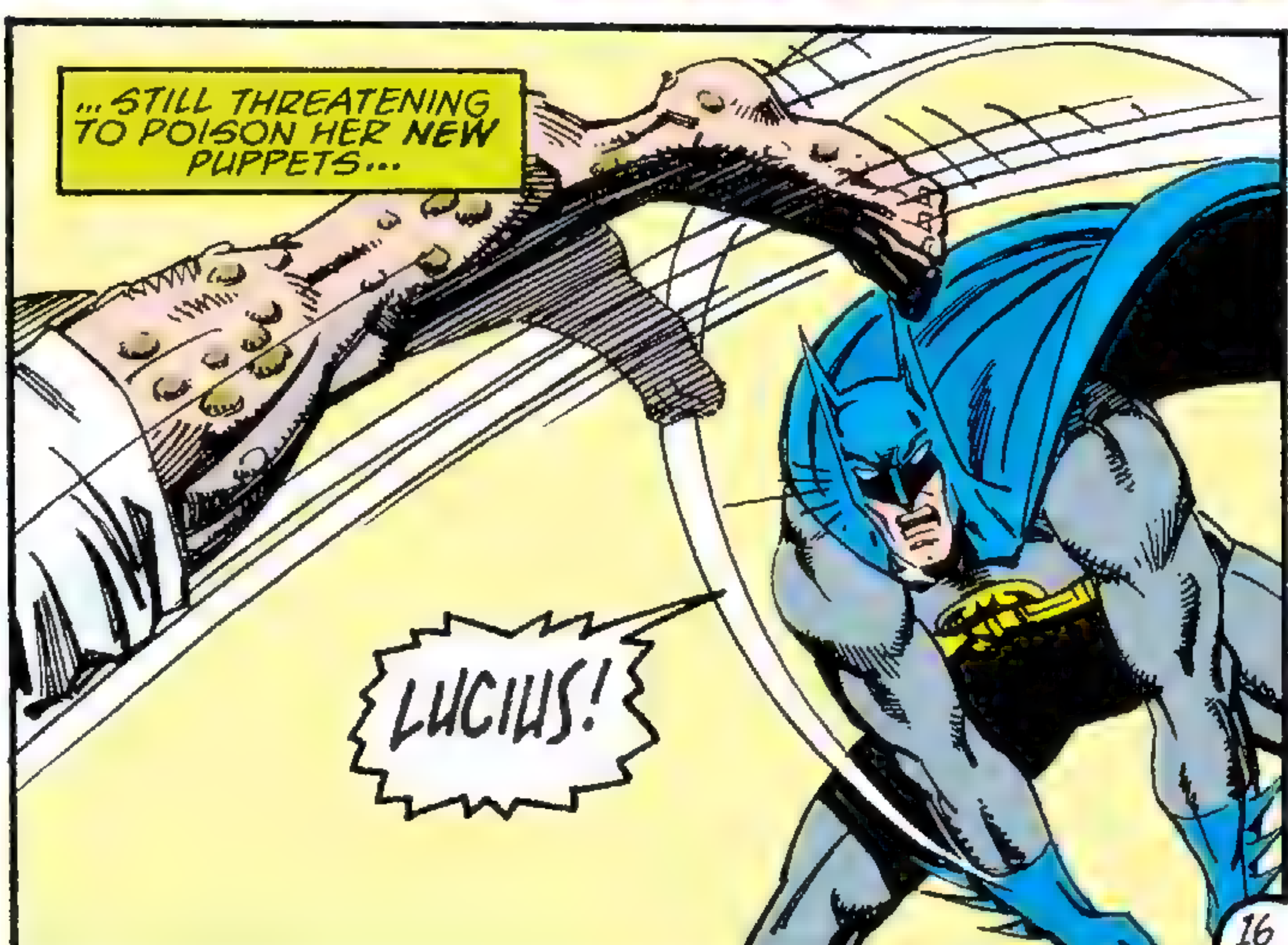
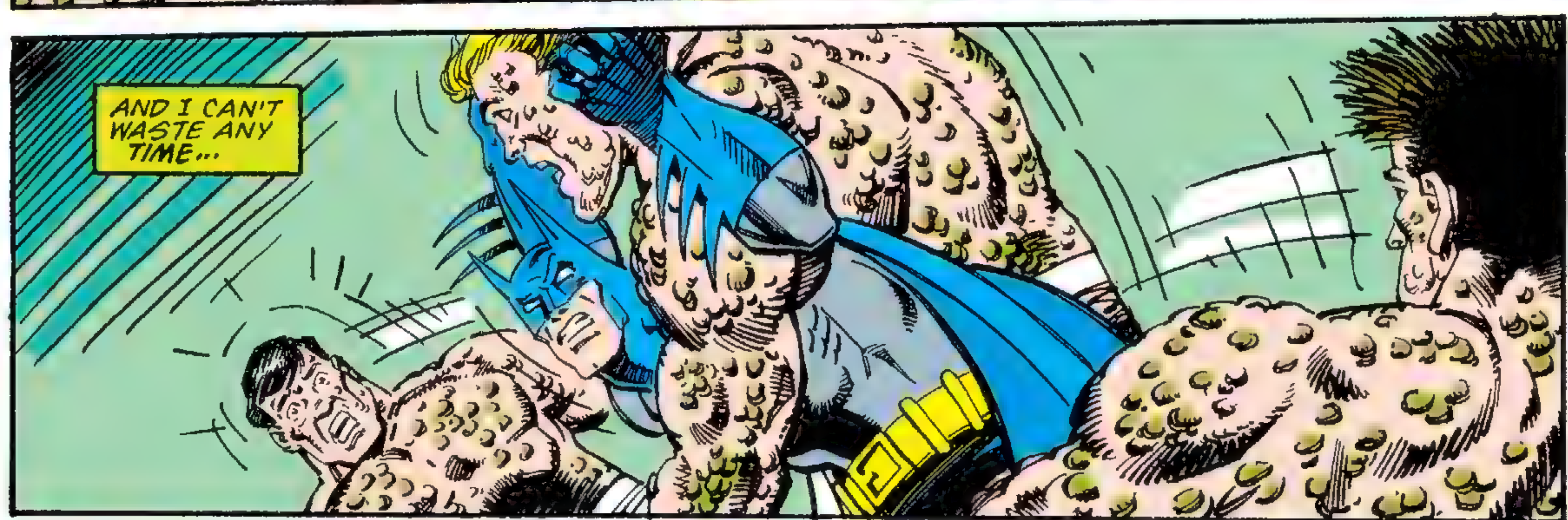
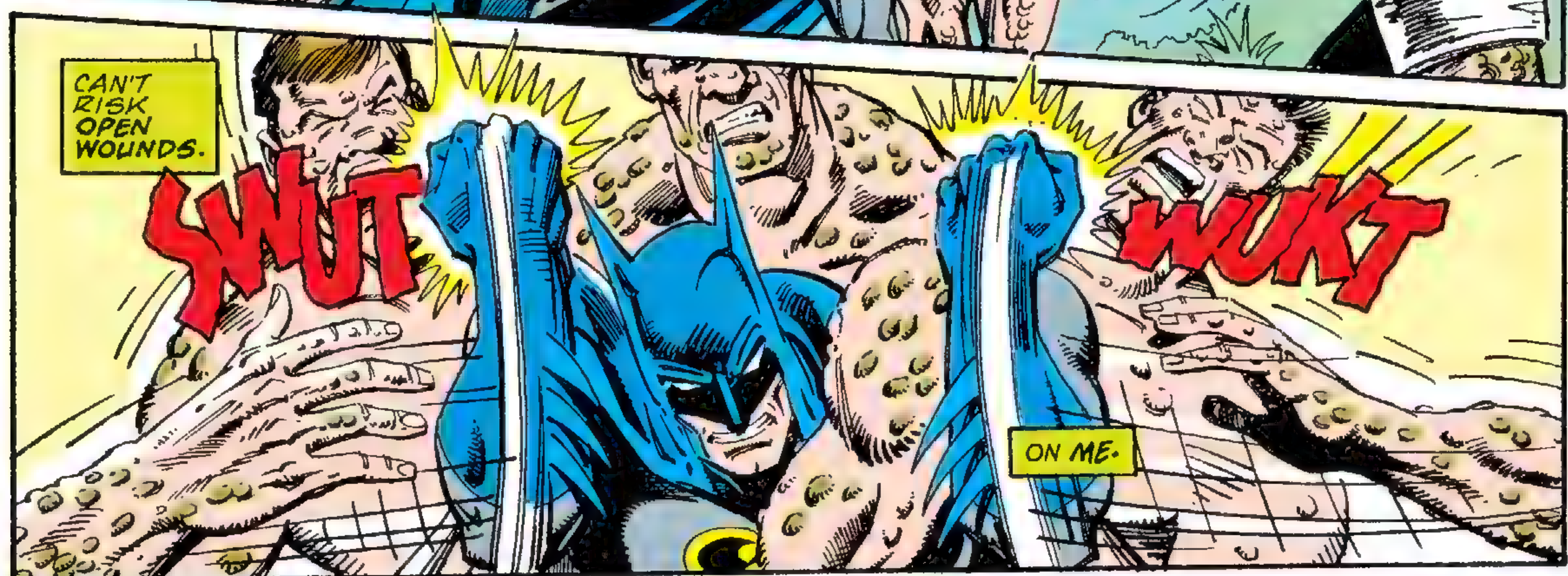
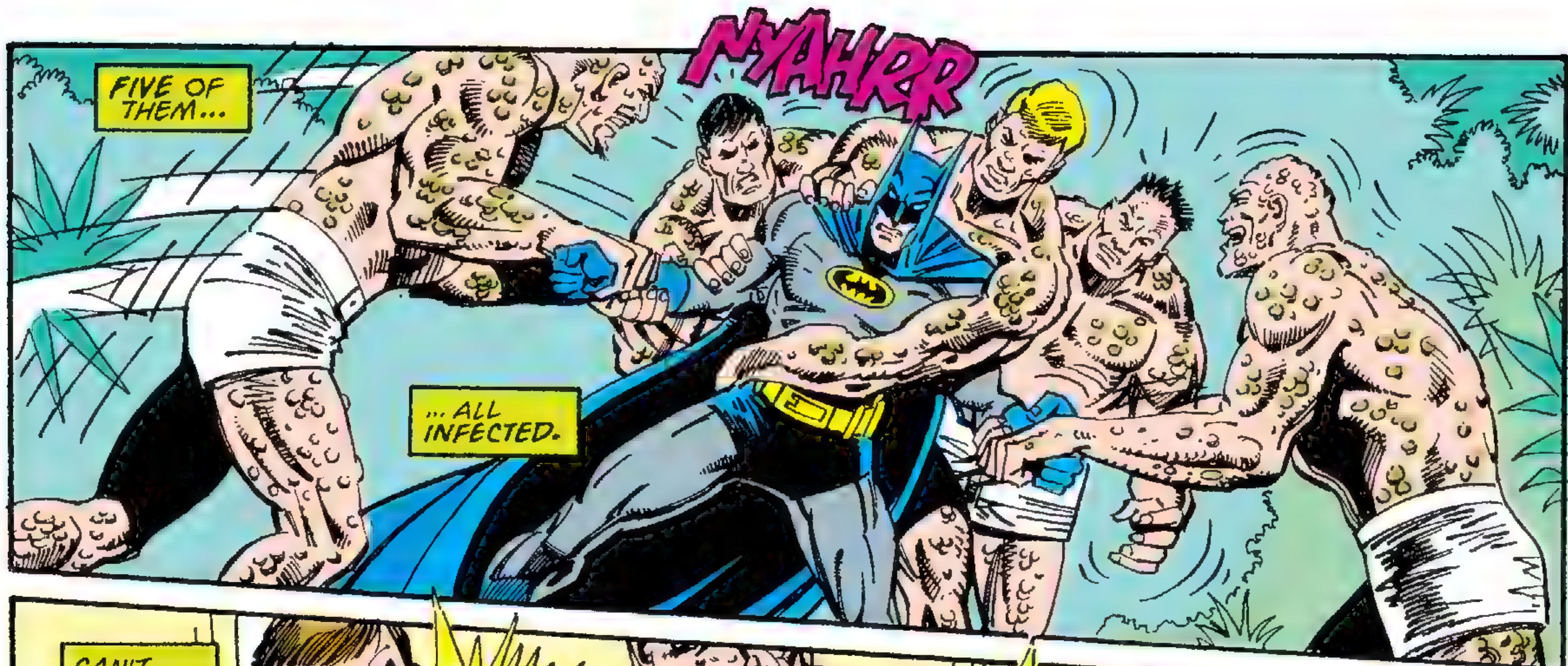
... AND WHETHER SHE'S AFTER THEIR MONEY, THEIR POWER, OR BOTH...

... IF SHE KISSES THEM, SHE'LL KILL THEM.

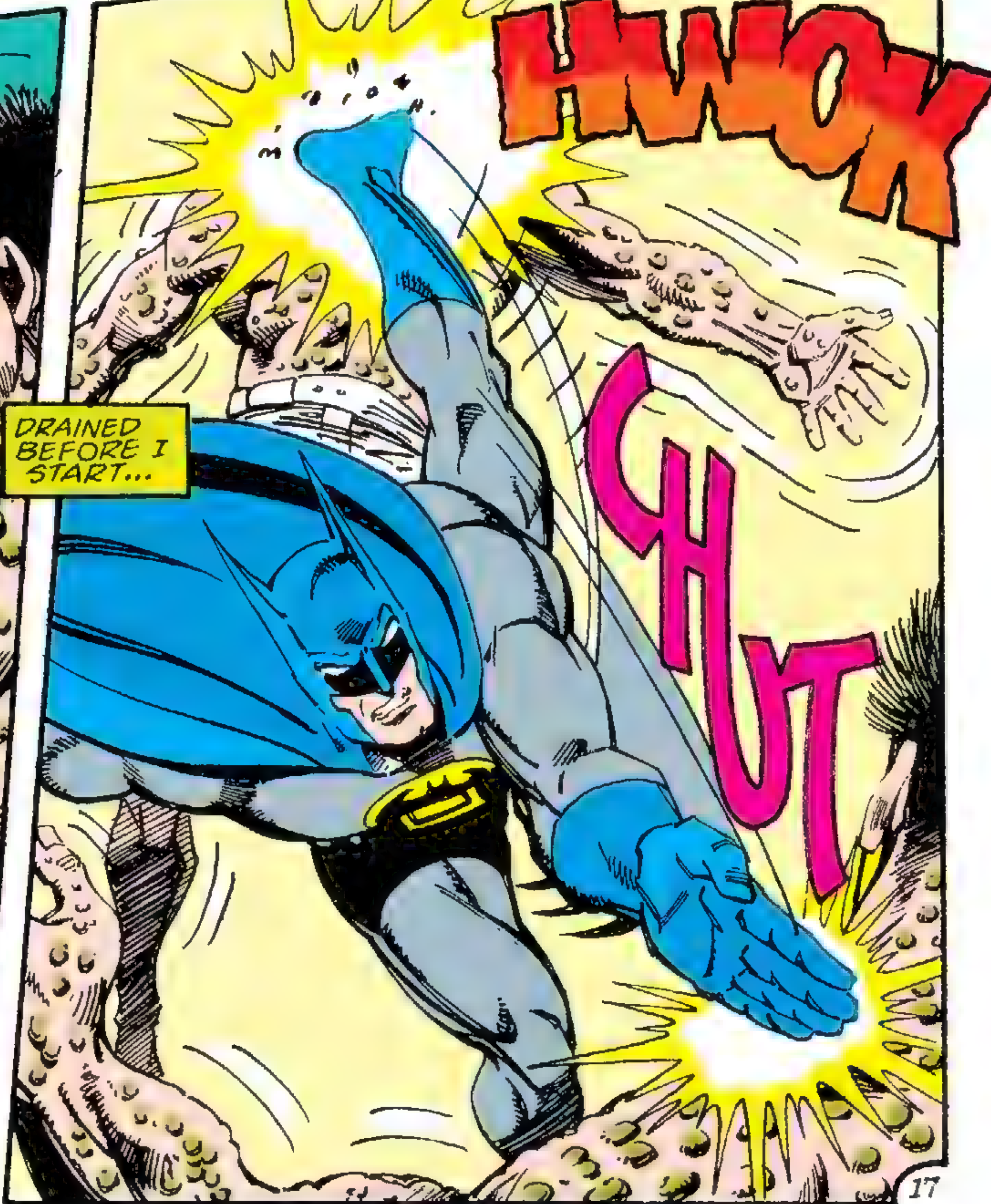
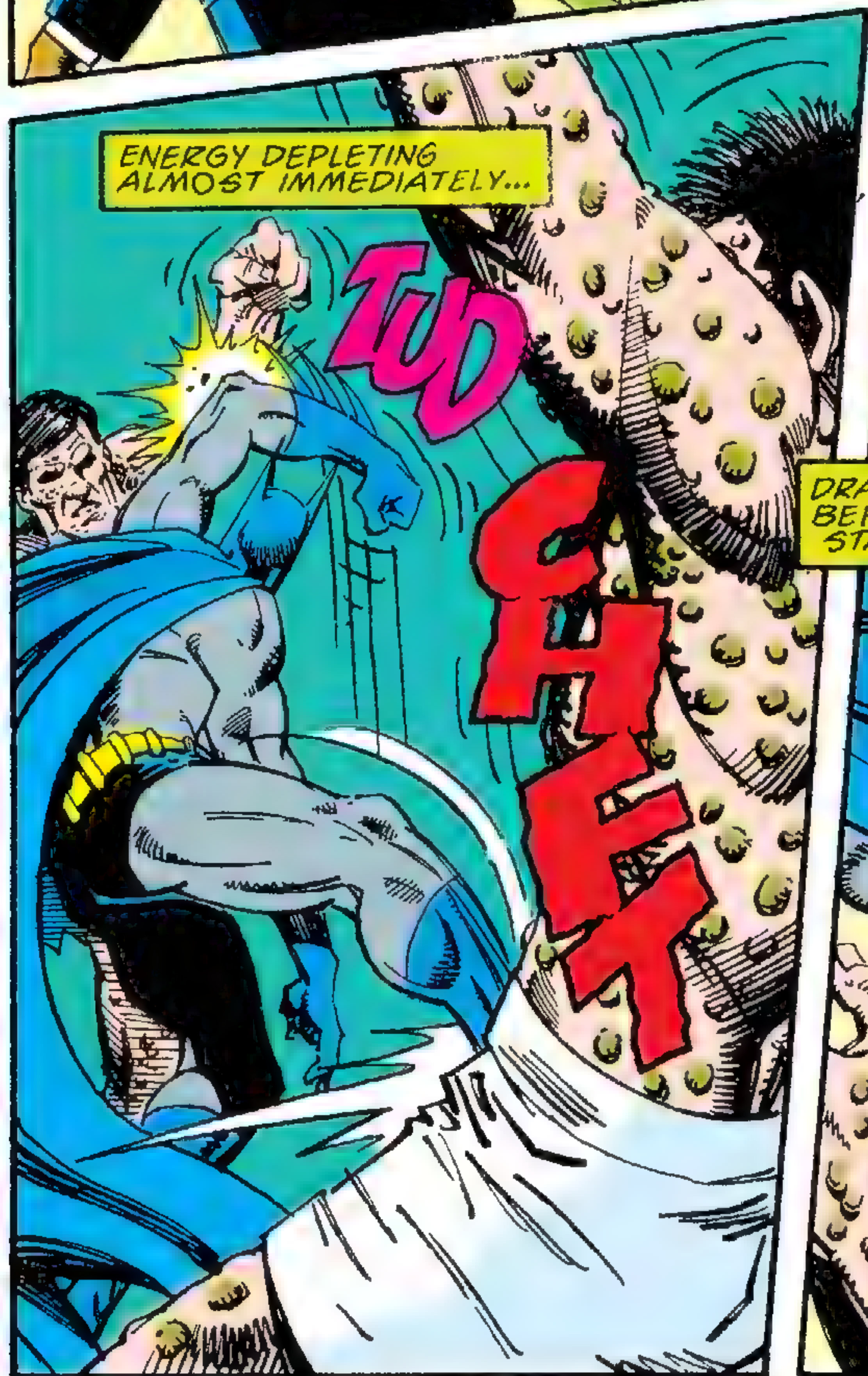
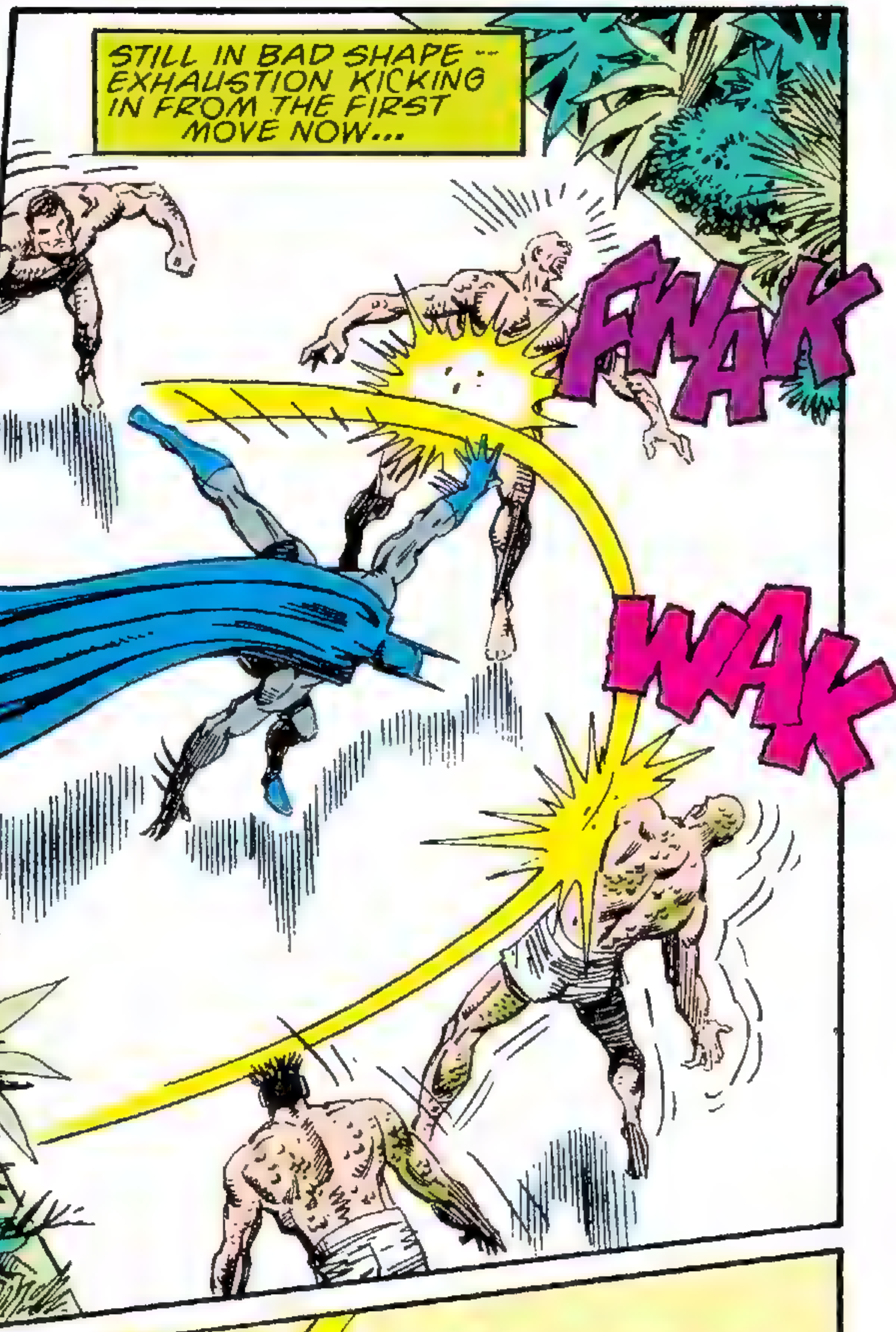
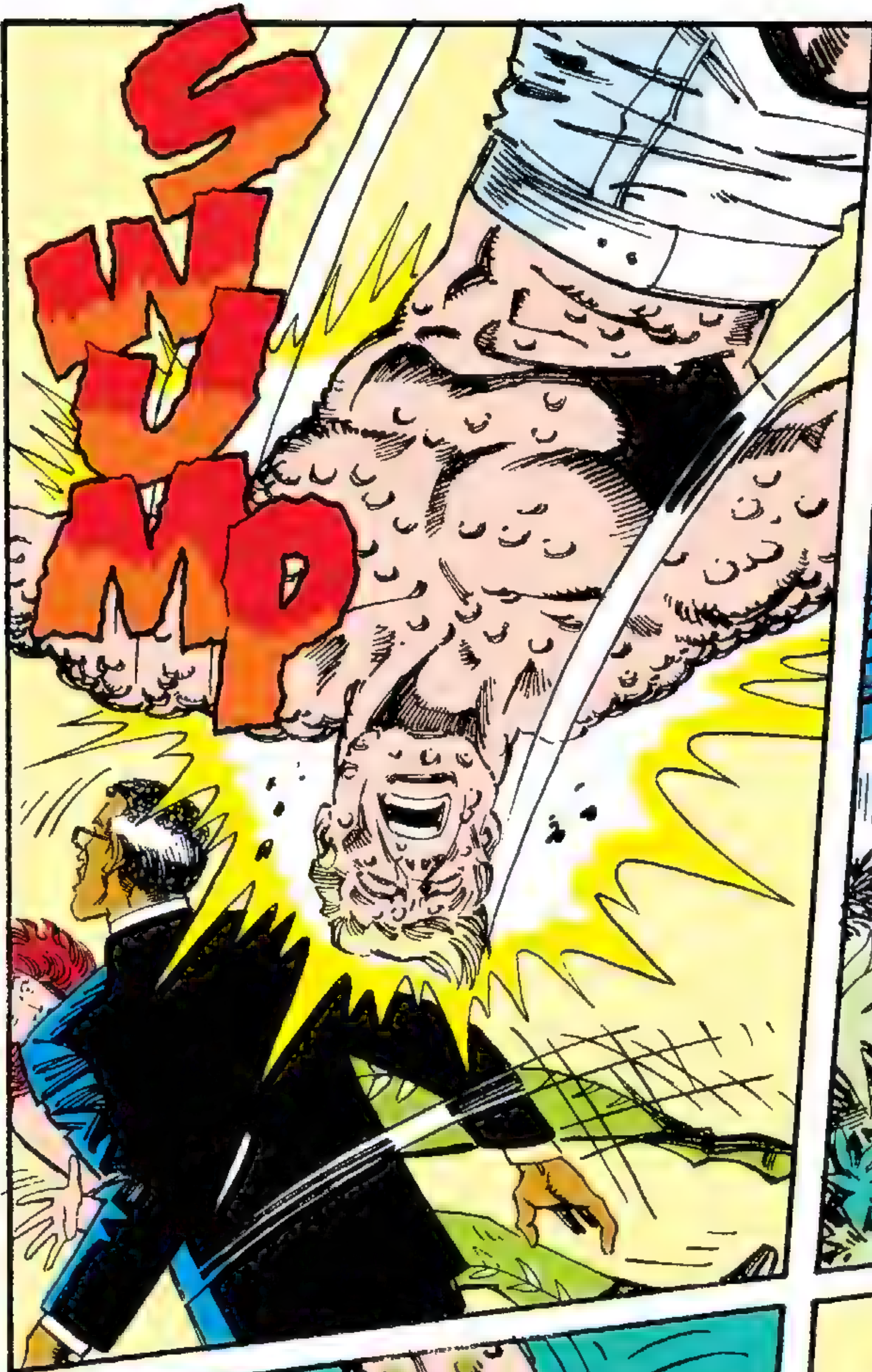




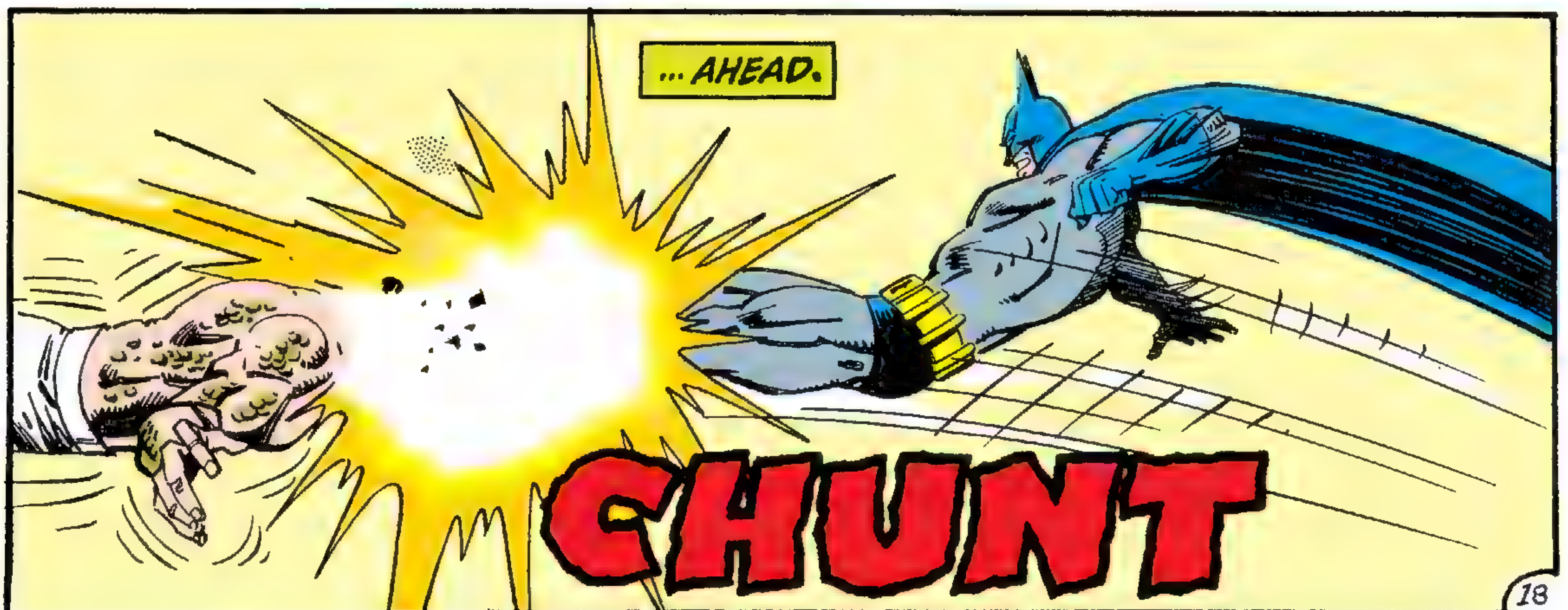
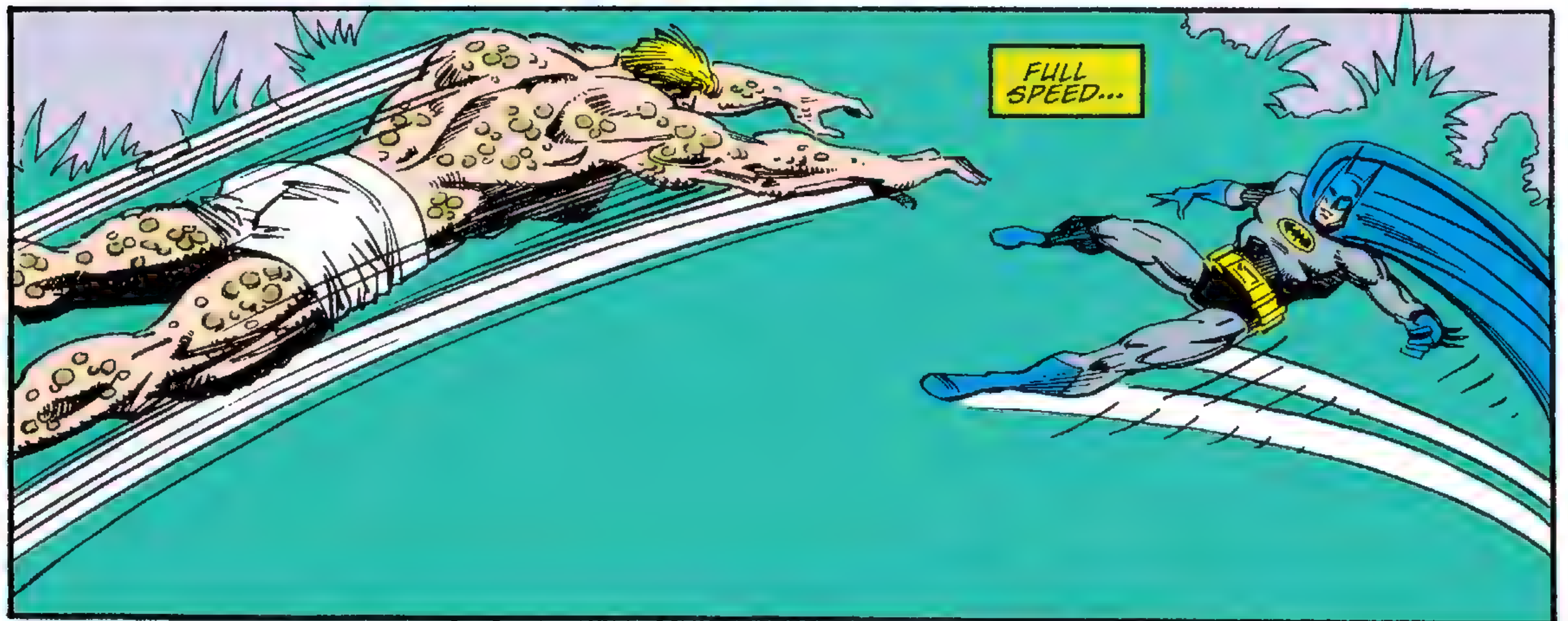
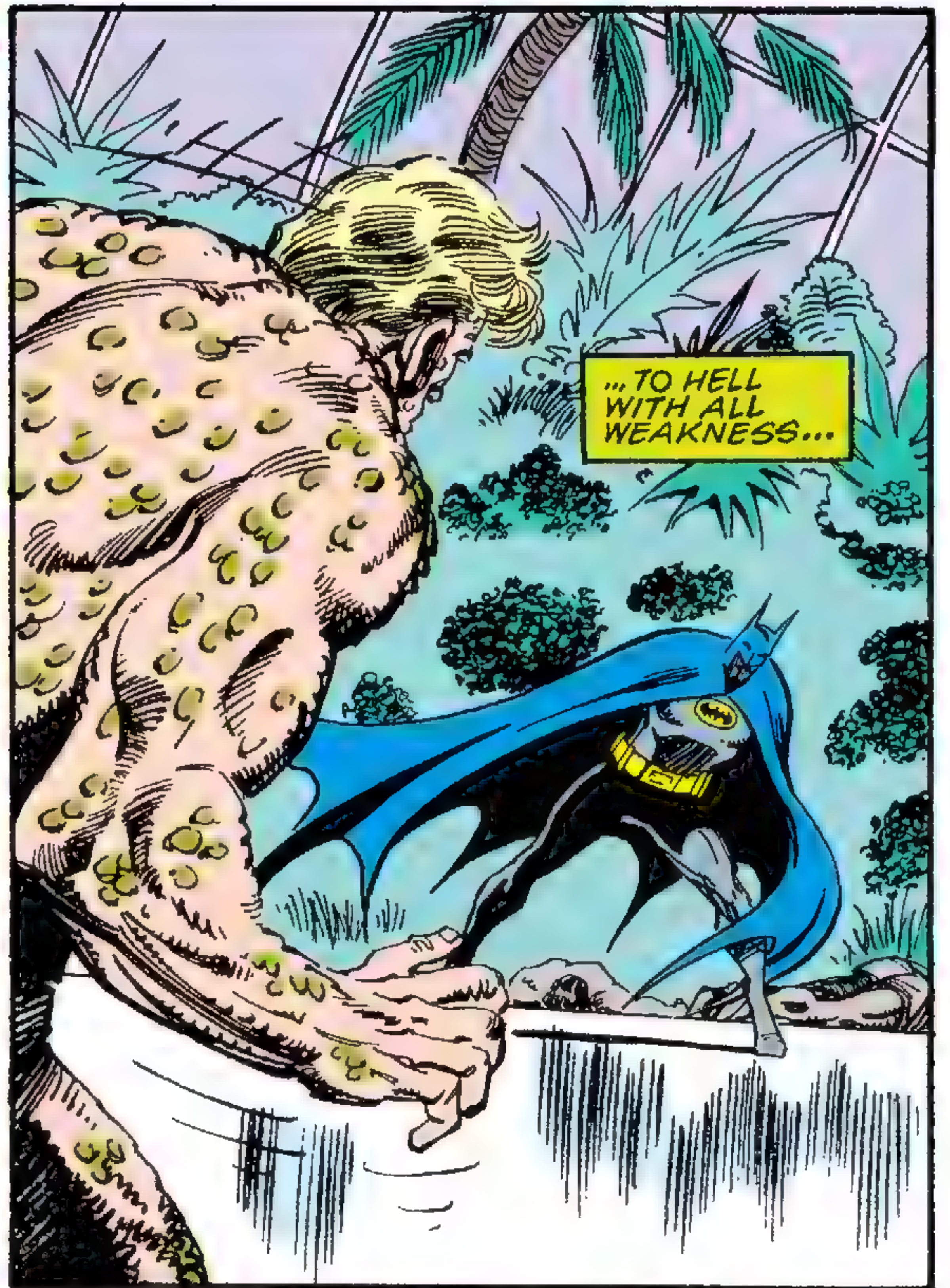
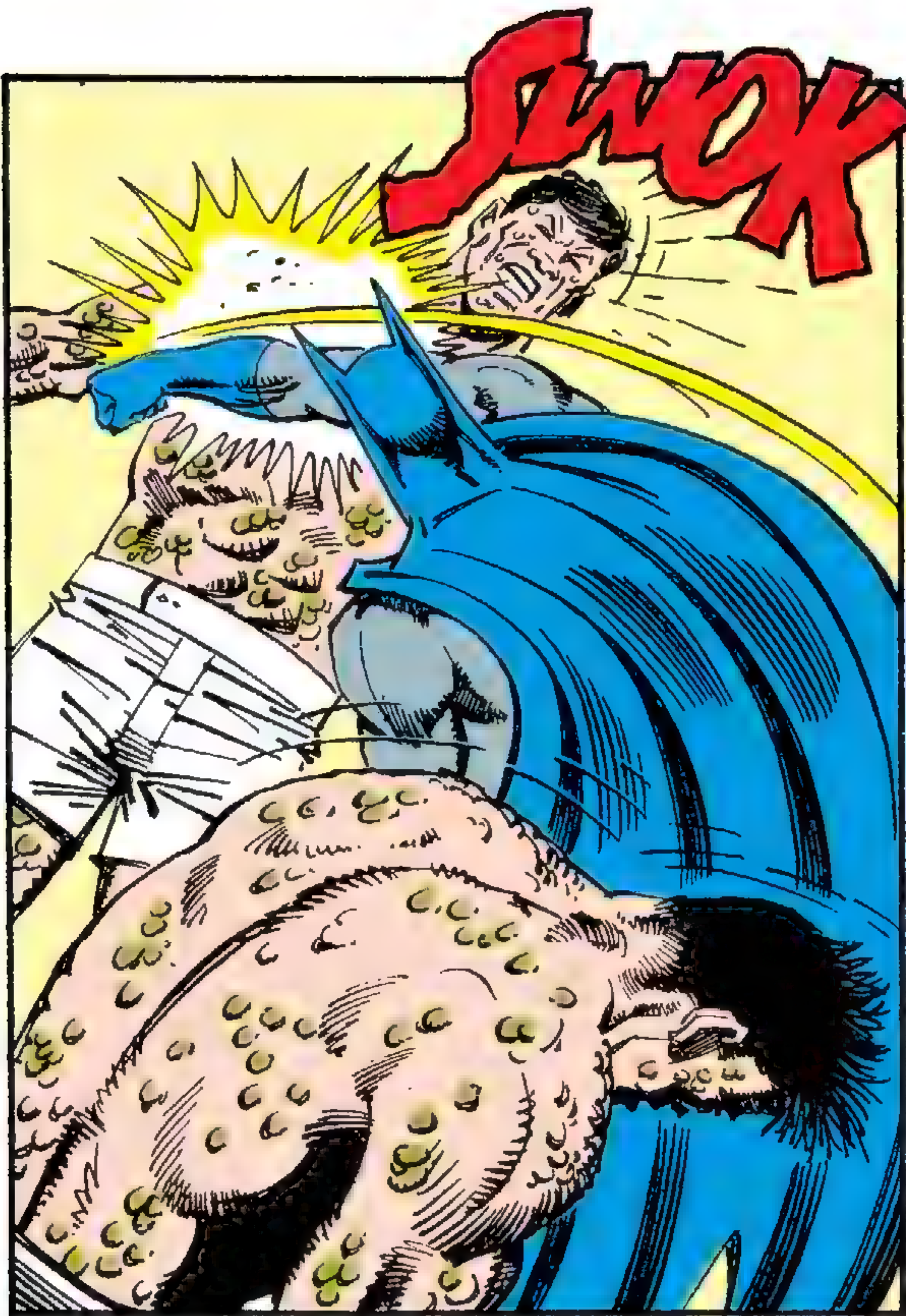




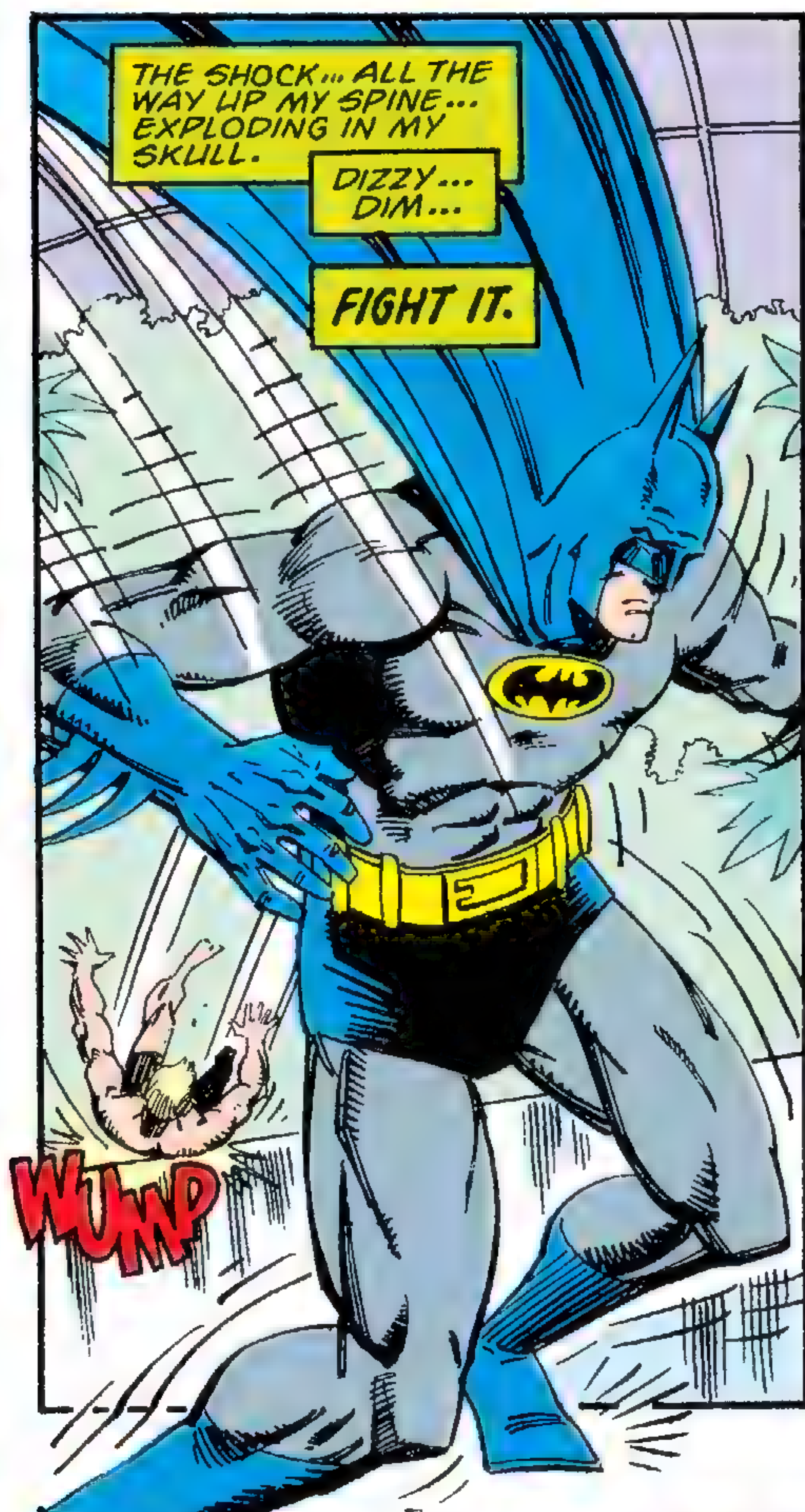












THE SHOCK... ALL THE WAY UP MY SPINE... EXPLODING IN MY SKULL.

DIZZY... DIM...

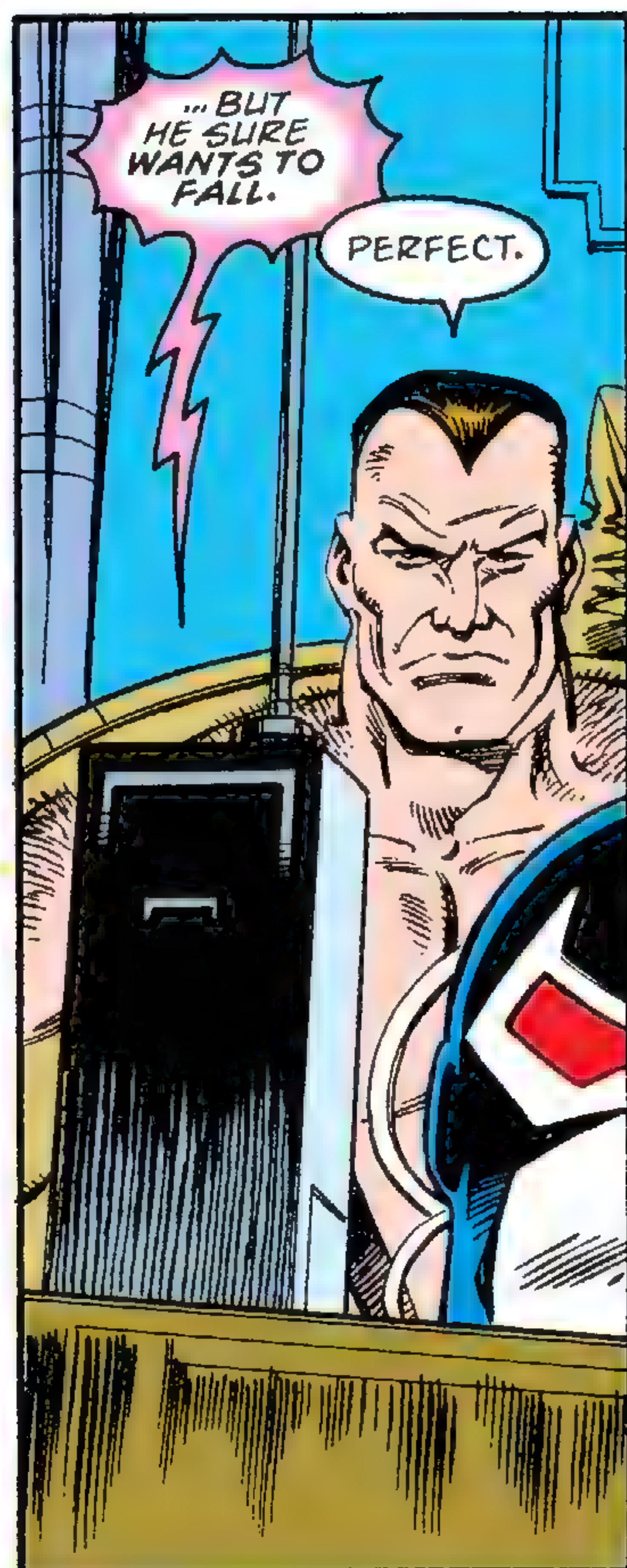
FIGHT IT.

WUMP



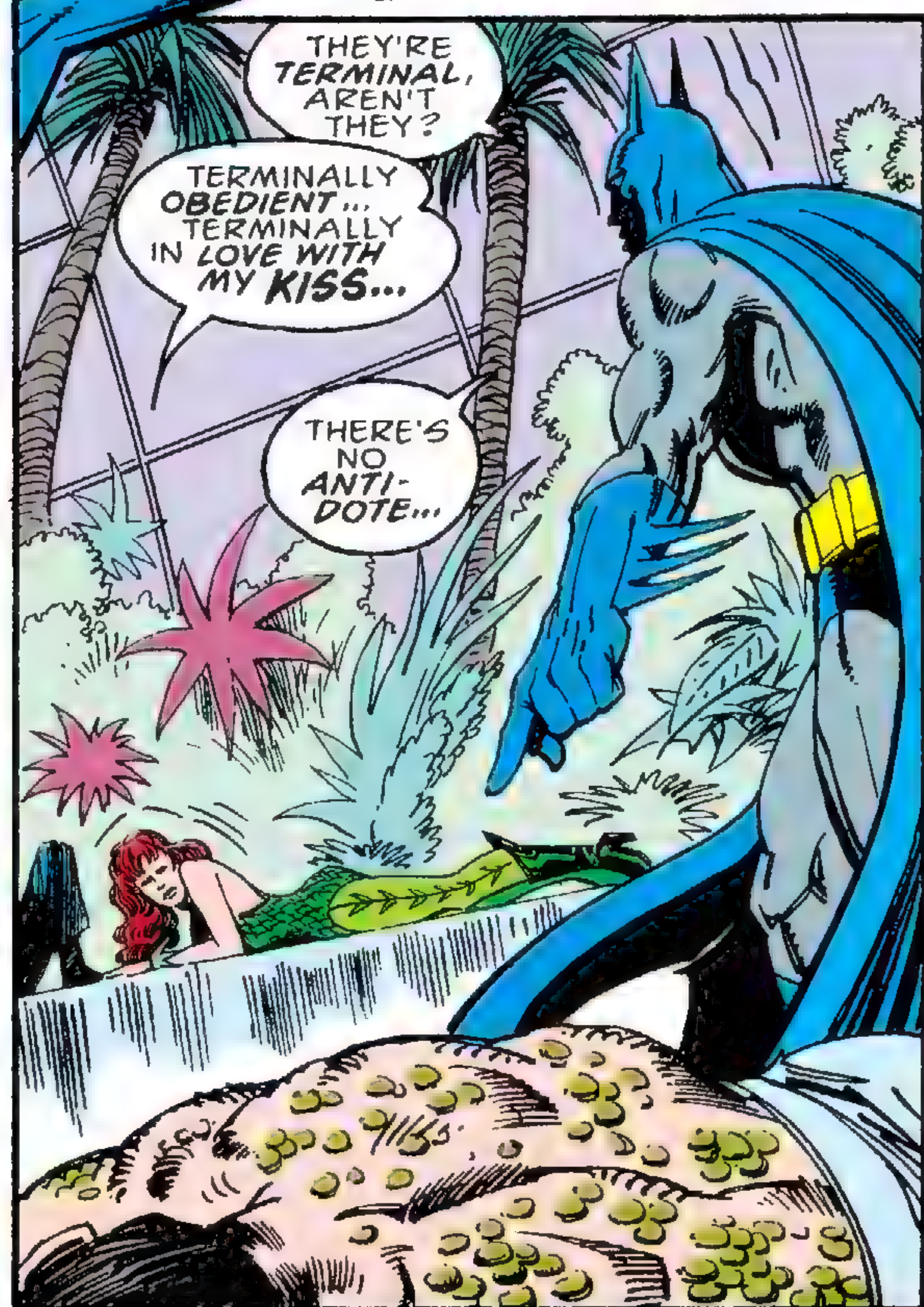
BIRD TO BANE: LOOKS LIKE HE'S GONNA DO IT AGAIN... EVEN IF HE ENDS LIKE A RAG DOLL.

HE'S STILL STANDING...



... BUT HE SURE WANTS TO FALL.

PERFECT.



THEY'RE TERMINAL, AREN'T THEY?

TERMINALLY OBEDIENT... TERMINALLY IN LOVE WITH MY KISS...

THERE'S NO ANTI-DOTE...

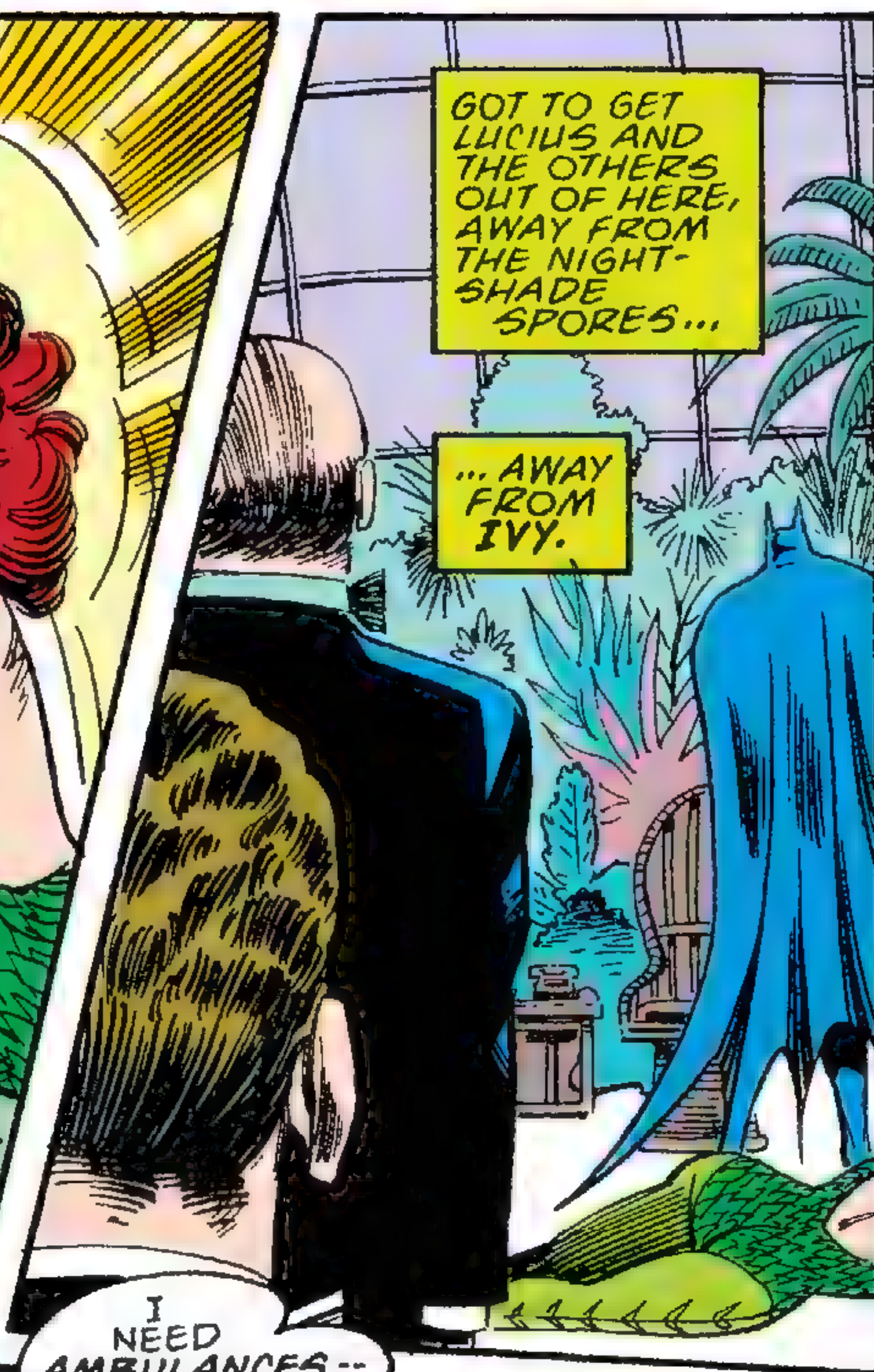
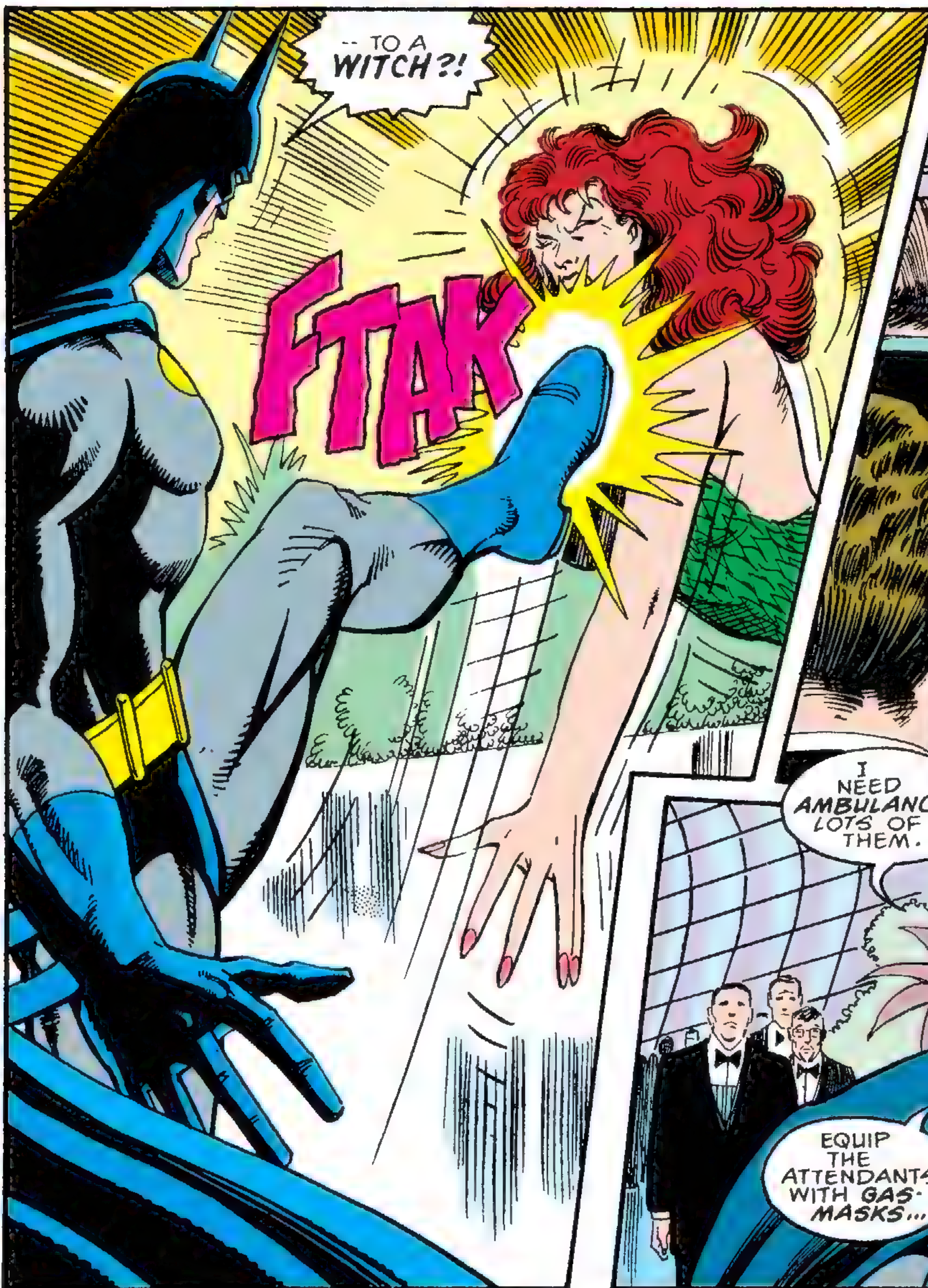
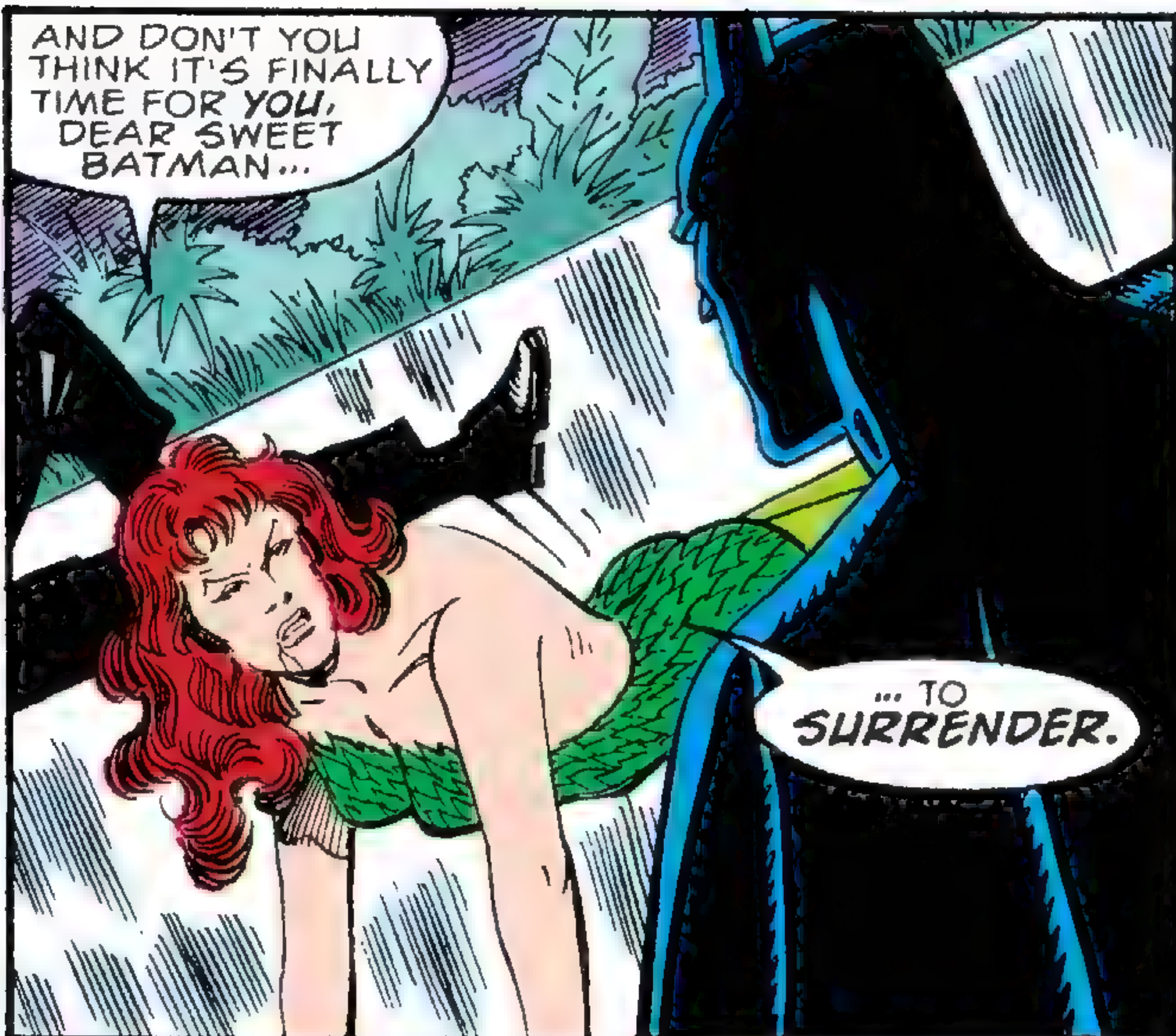


... NO HOPE FOR THEM?

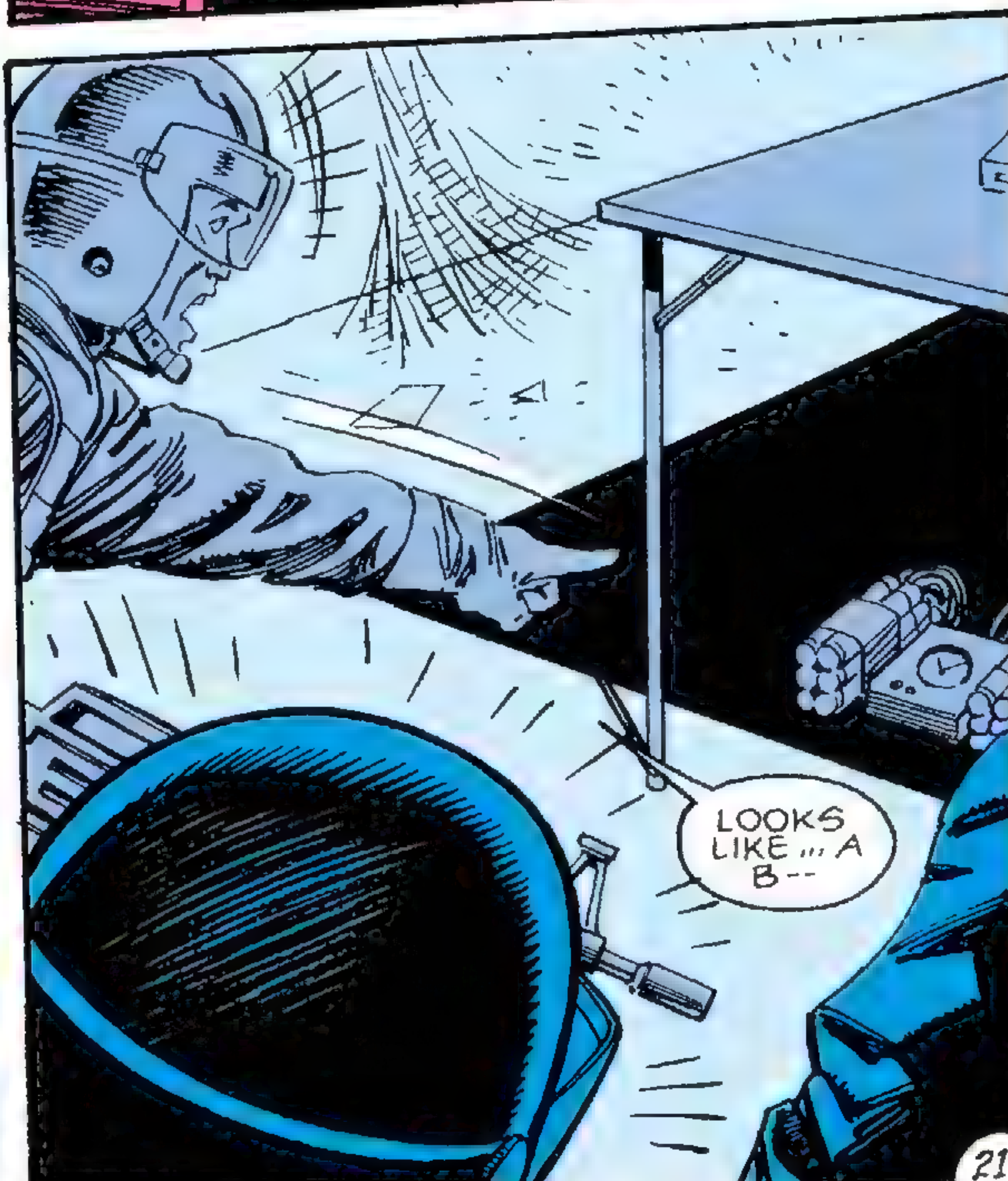
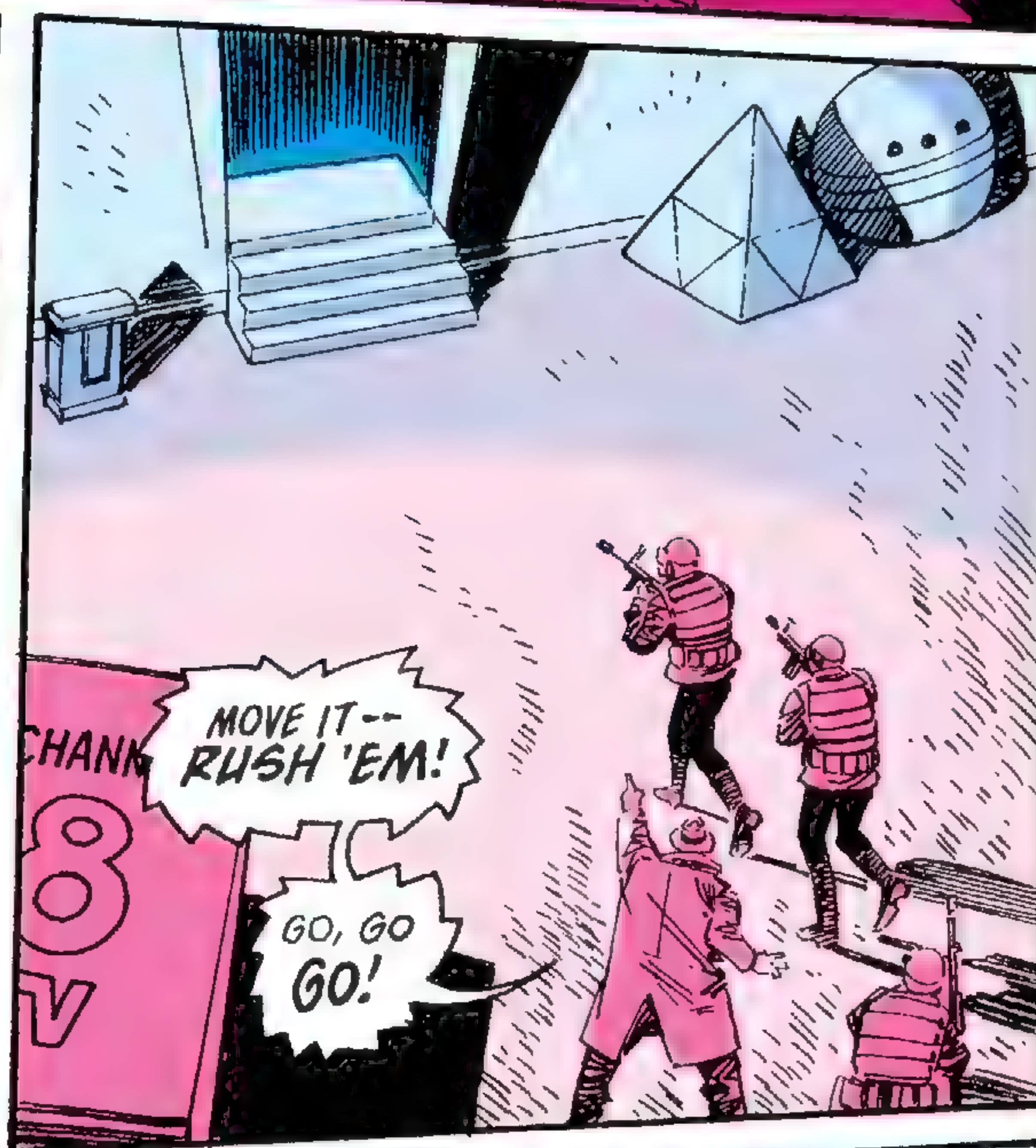
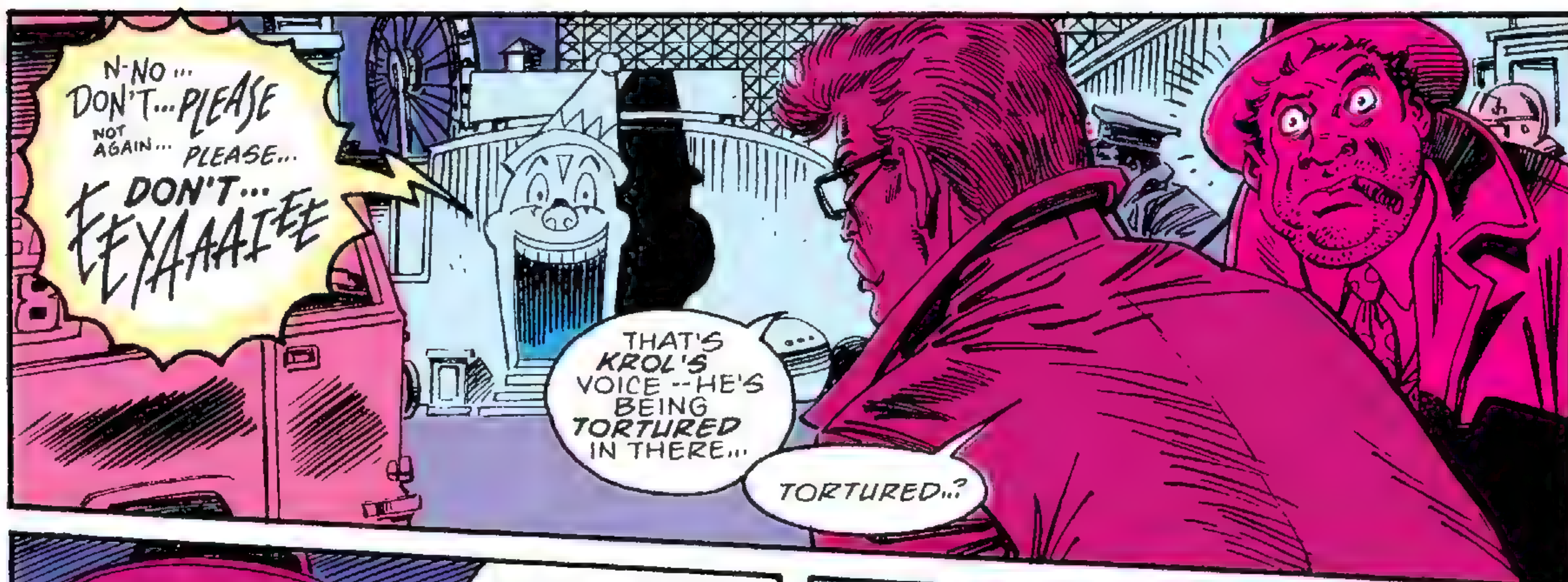
THEY WOULD HAVE GLADLY DIED DAYS AGO...

... MORE THAN SATISFIED WITH WHAT I'VE ALREADY GIVEN THEM...

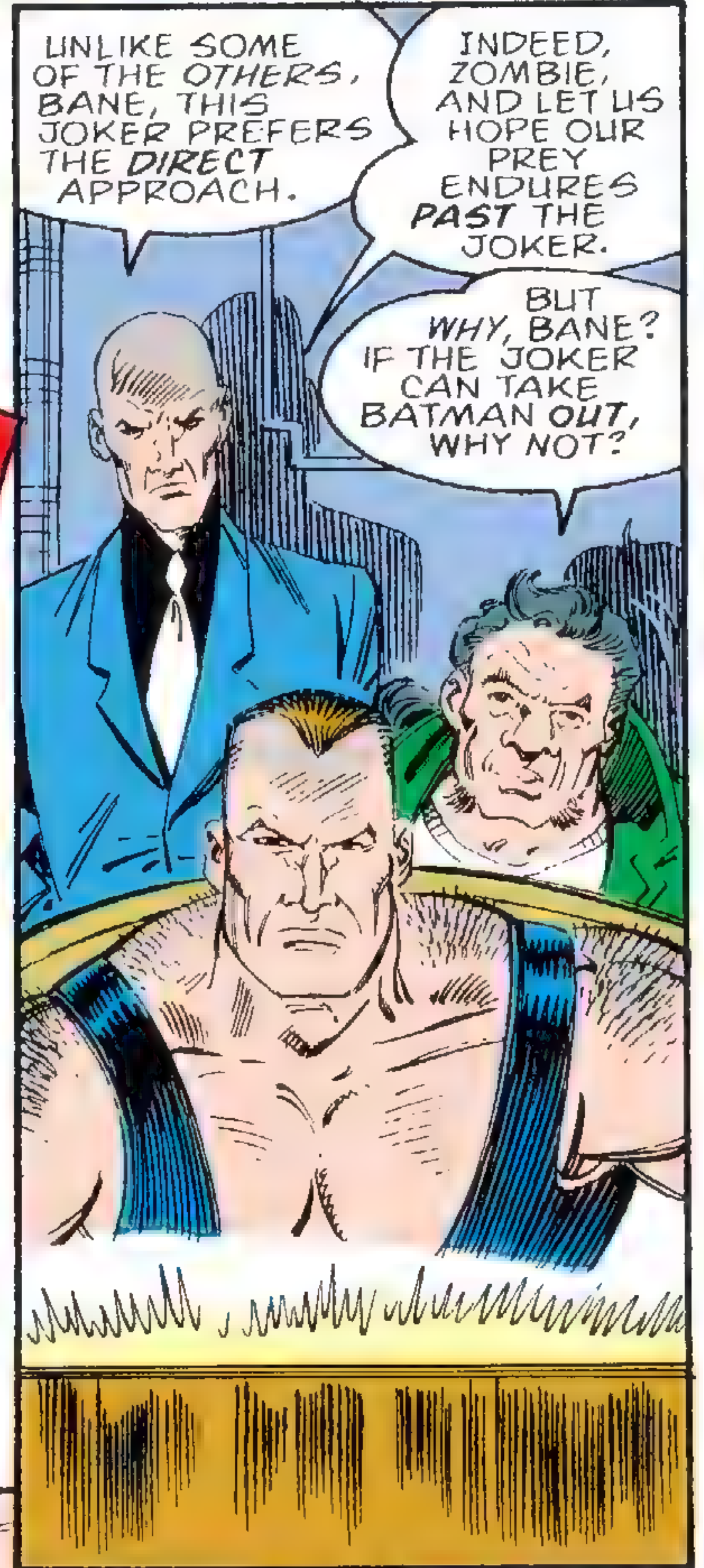
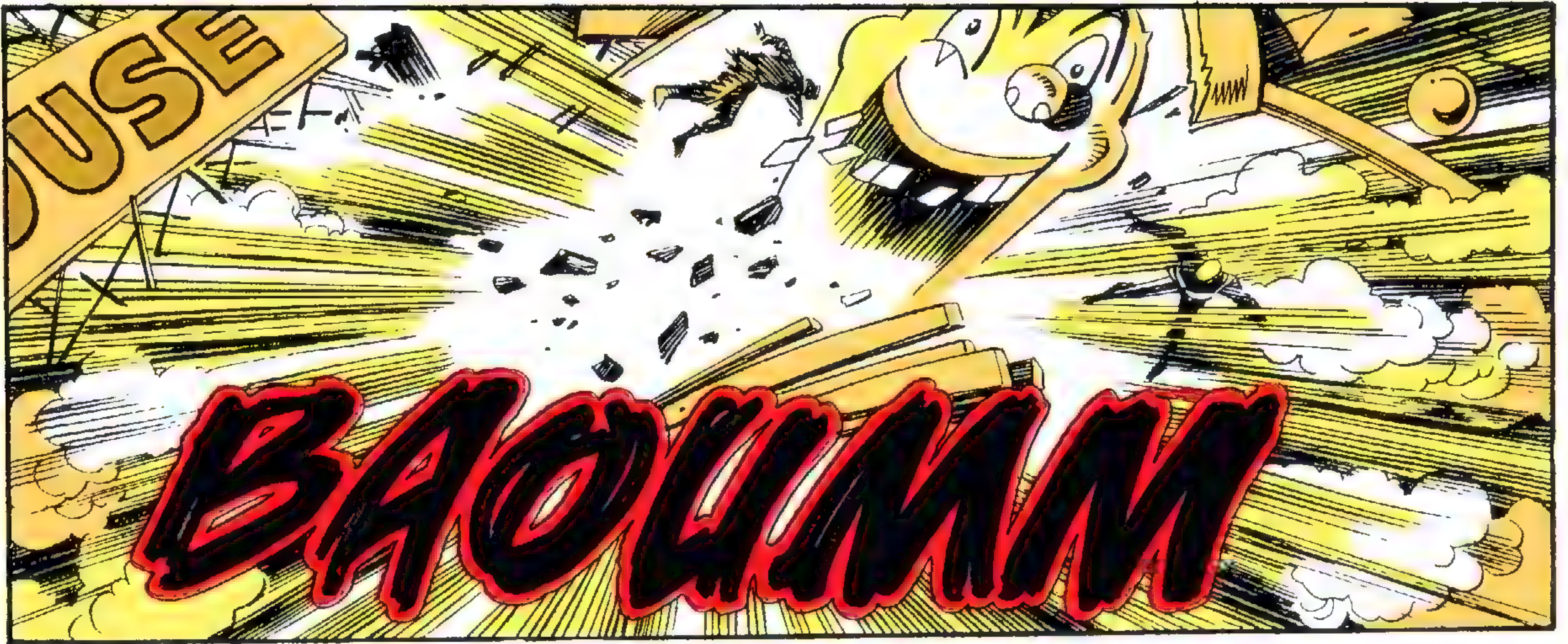












BECAUSE  
HE'S MINE,  
TROGG.

MINE  
TO  
CRACK.

MINE  
TO  
BREAK.



KNIGHTFALL™

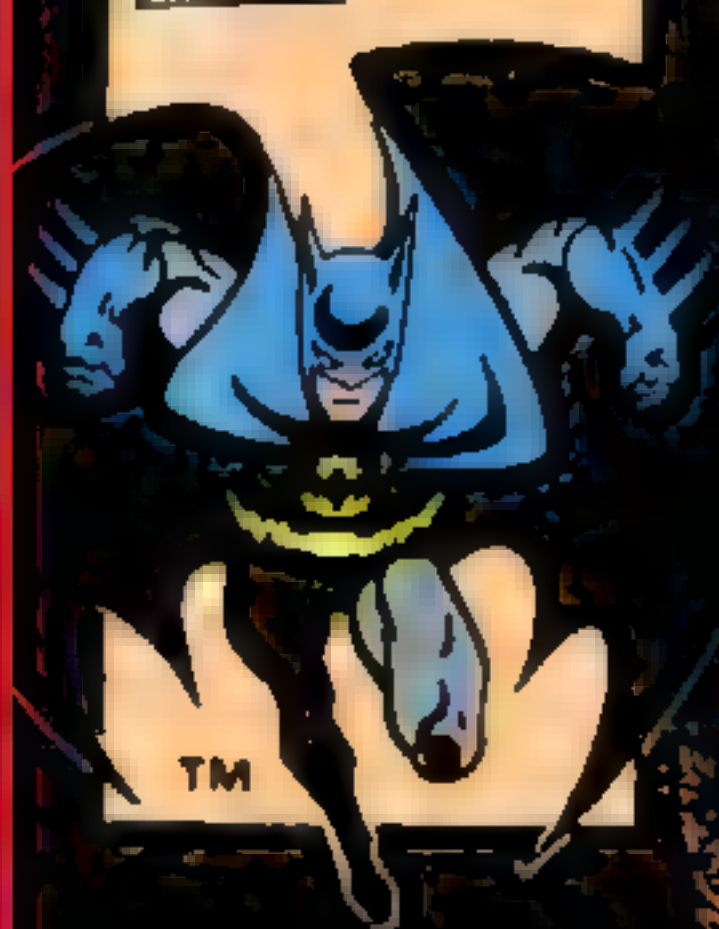


DETECTIVE COMICS®  
FEATURING

# BATMAN®



662  
LATE  
JUNE 95



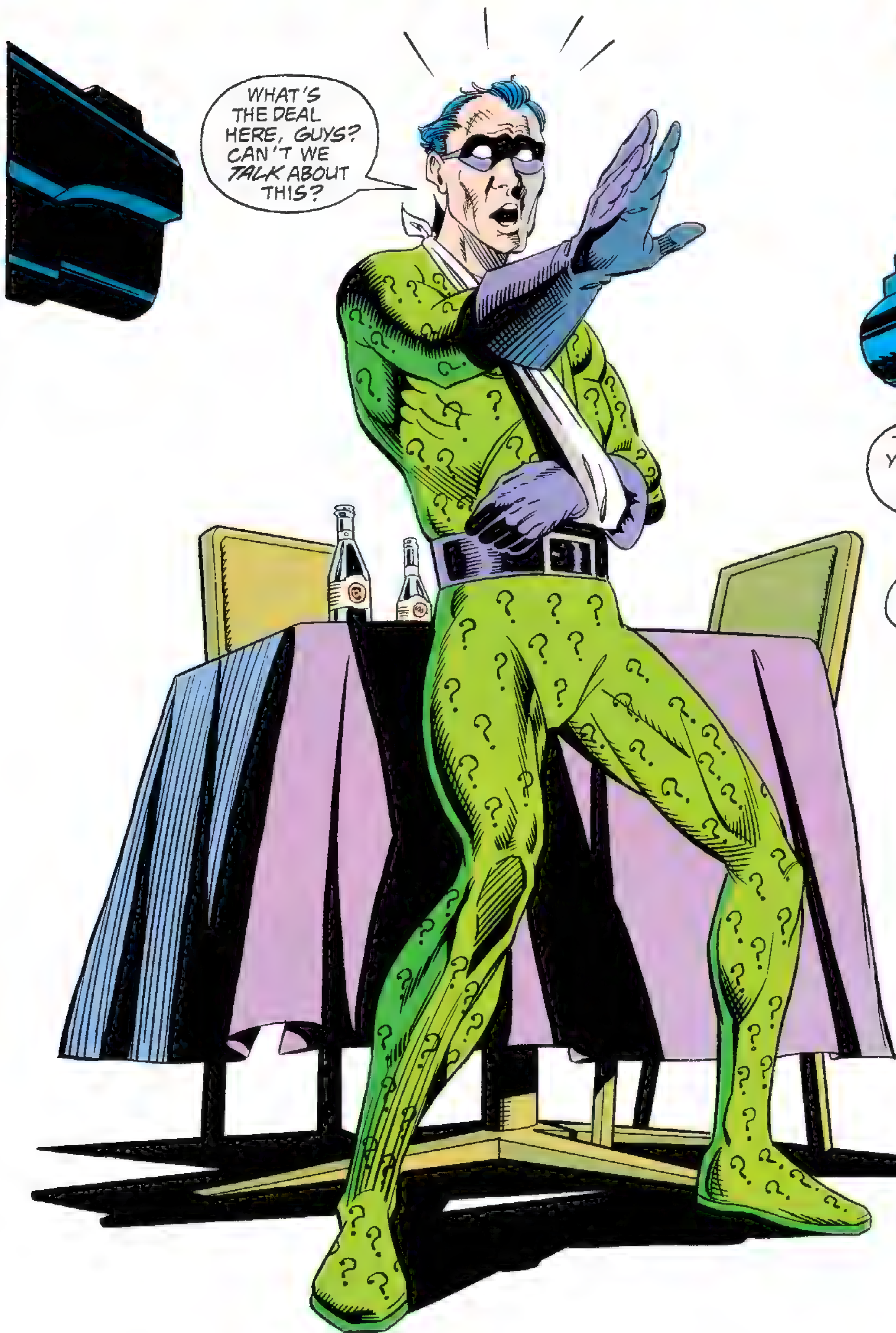




Cover art by  
**SAM KIETH**



# BURNING QUESTIONS



WHAT'S  
THE DEAL  
HERE, GUYS?  
CAN'T WE  
TALK ABOUT  
THIS?

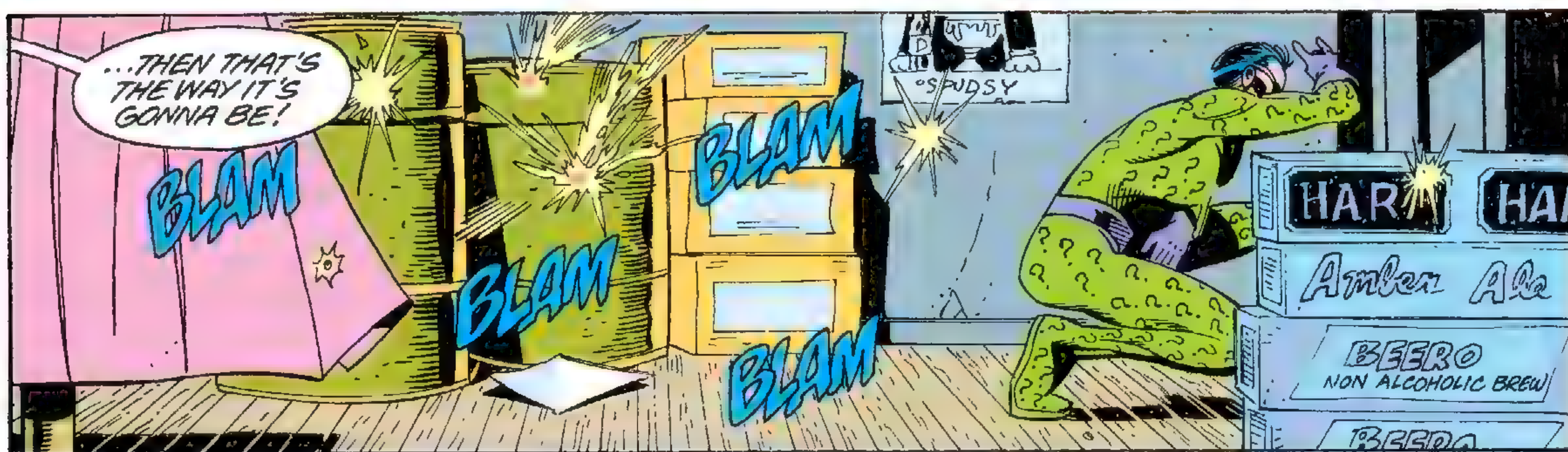
THAT'S ALL  
YOU DO IS  
TALK,  
RIDDLER.

AND WE'RE  
SICK OF IT AND  
SICK OF YOU!

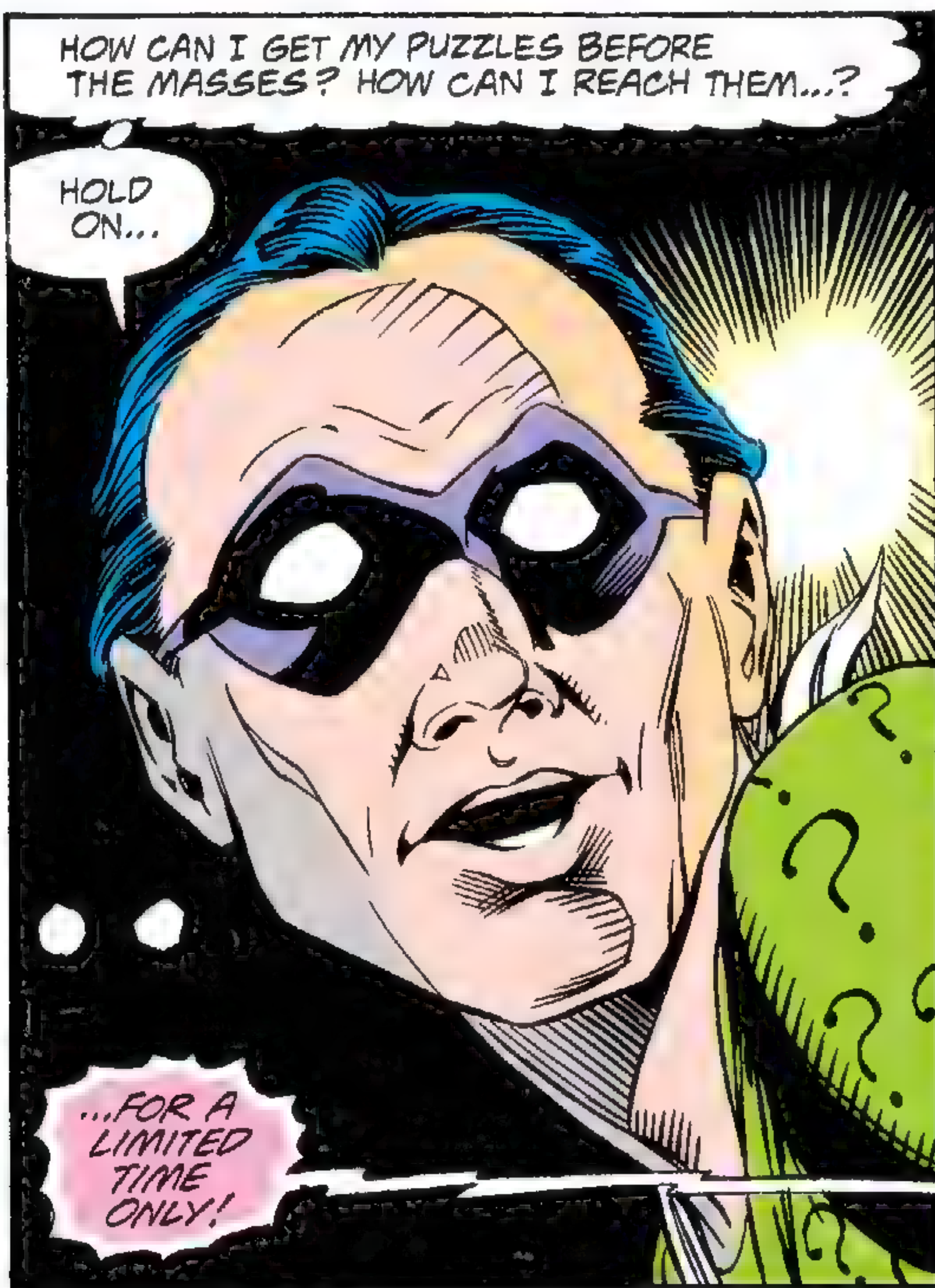
CHUCK DIXON  
*writer*  
GRAHAM NOLAN  
*penciler*  
SCOTT HANNA  
*inker*  
ADRIENNE ROY  
*colorist*  
JOHN COSTANZA  
*letterer*  
SCOTT PETERSON  
*and*  
DENNIS O'NEIL  
*editors*

BATMAN created by  
BOB KANE

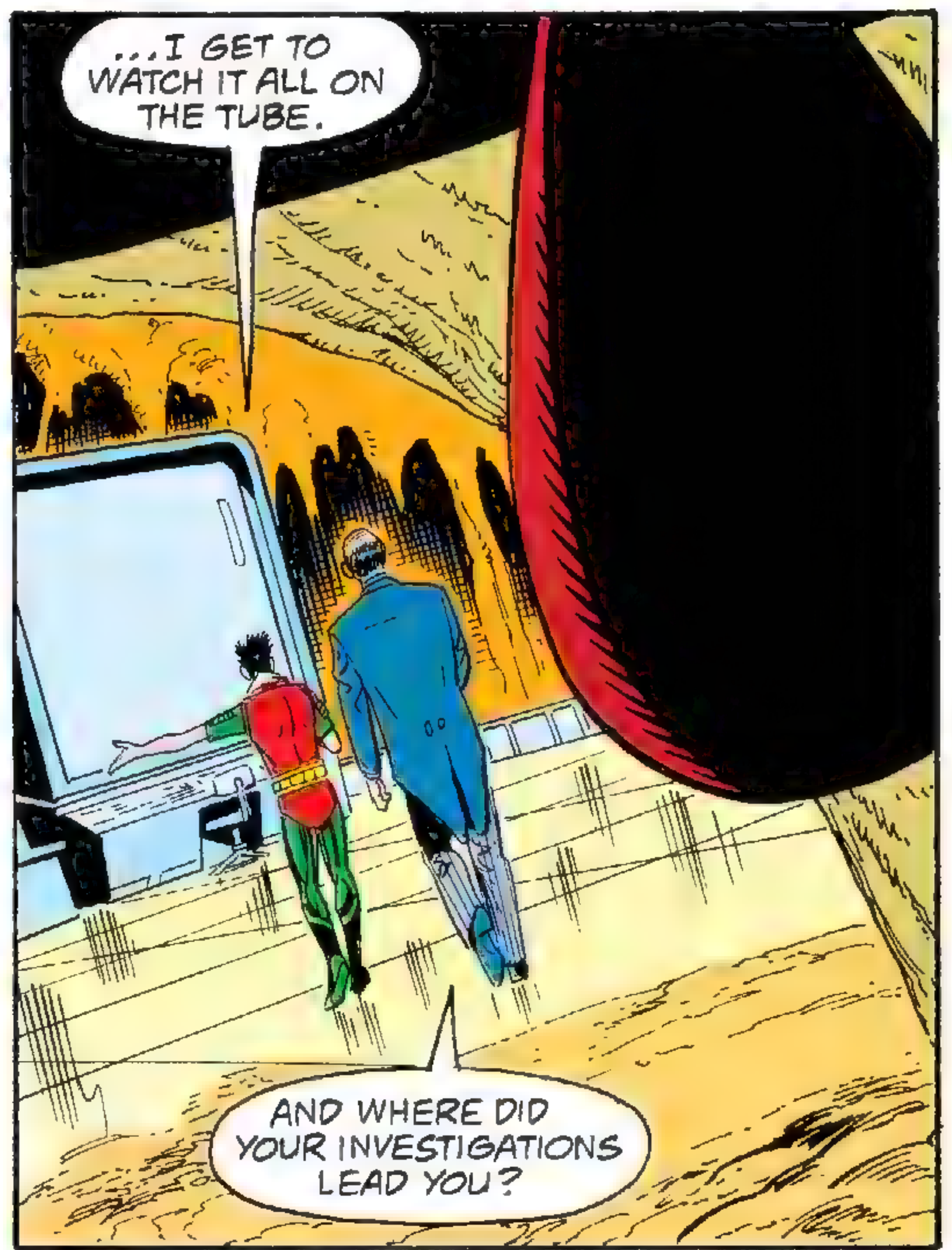










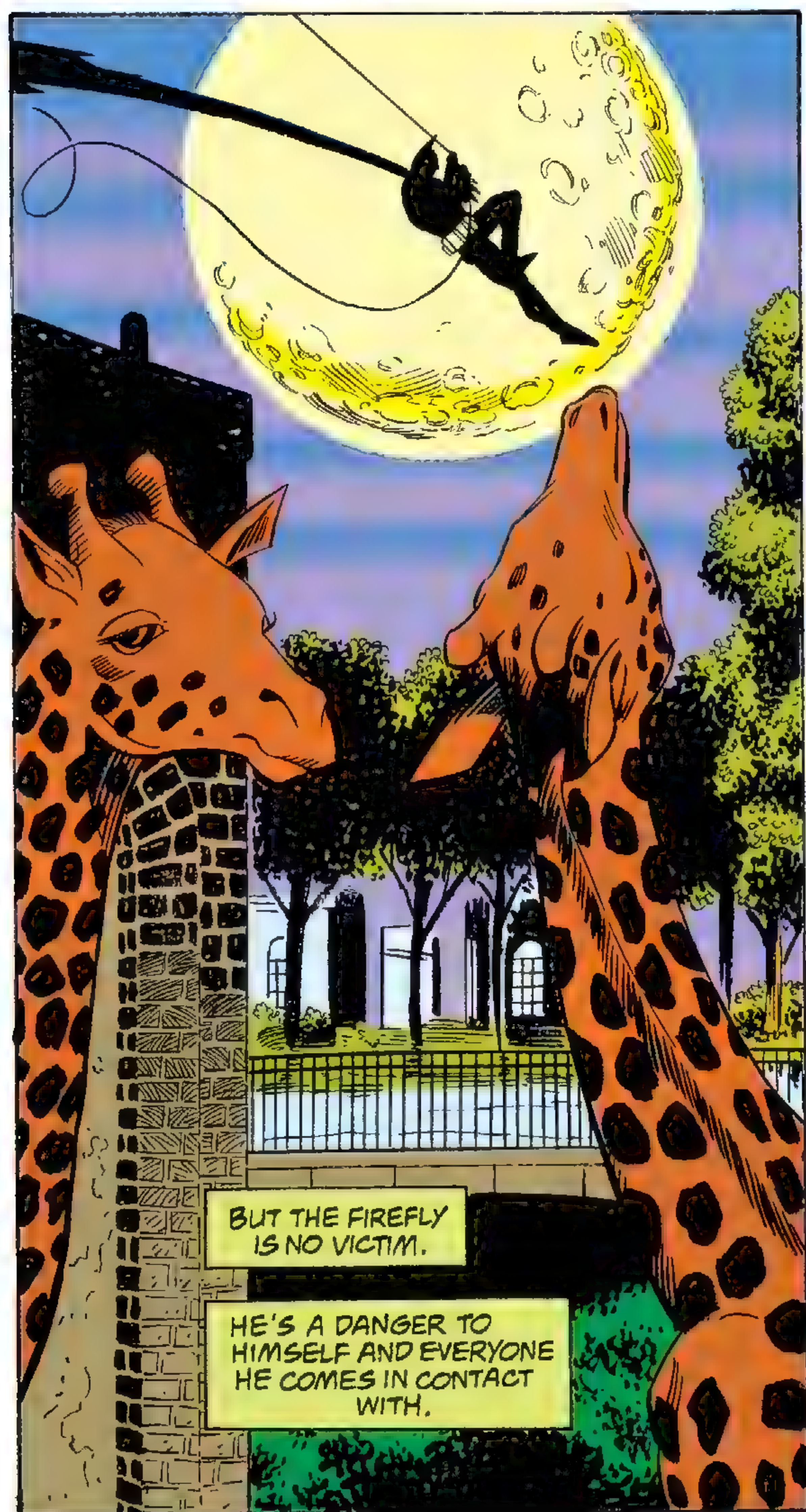






GARFIELD LYNN'S IS OUT TO BURN DOWN ALL OF THE PLACES HE NEVER GOT TAKEN TO AS A CHILD.

IN PSYCHOBABBLE TERMS HE'S FEEDING OFF THE RAGE OF HIS INNER CHILD, REDRESSING THE DISAPPOINTMENTS OF HIS PAST.



BUT THE FIREFLY IS NO VICTIM.

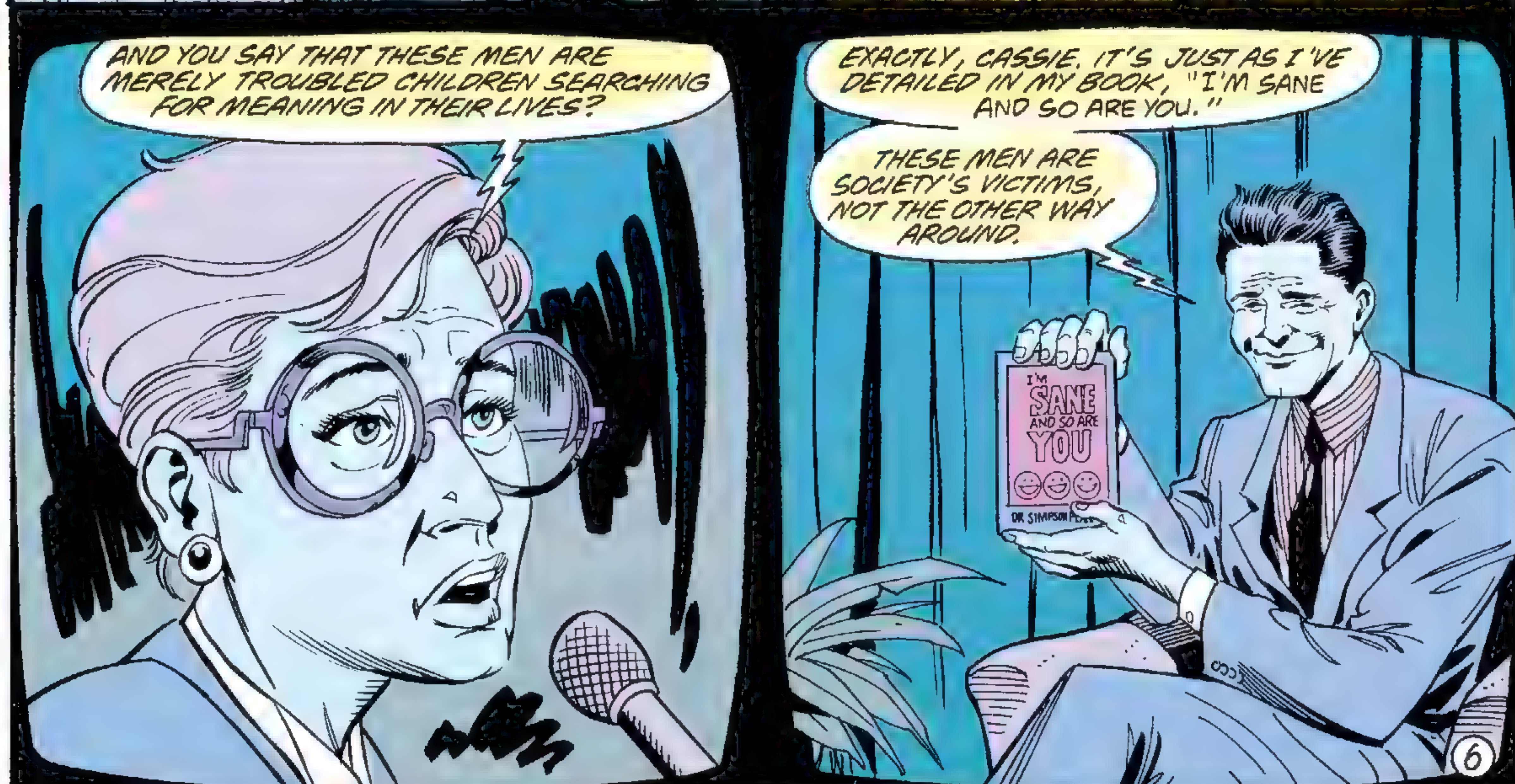
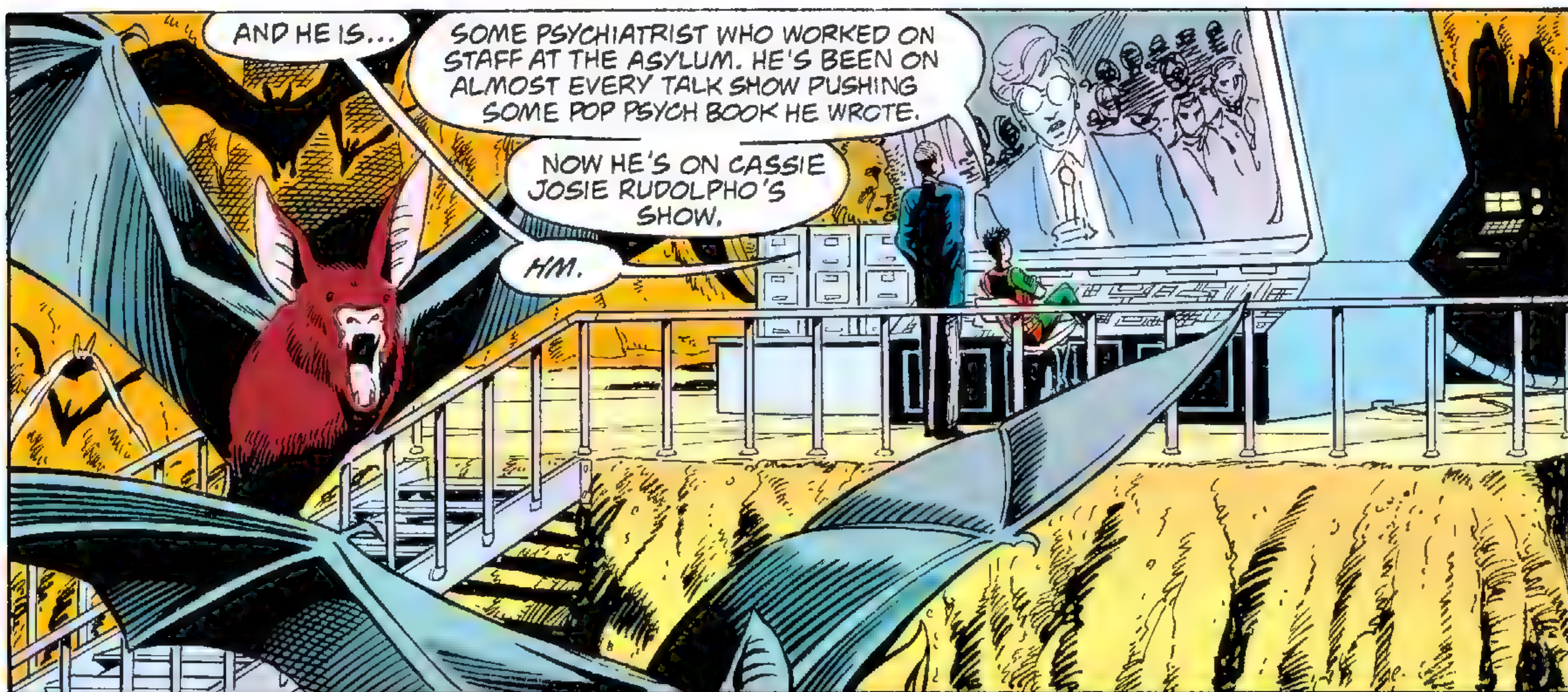
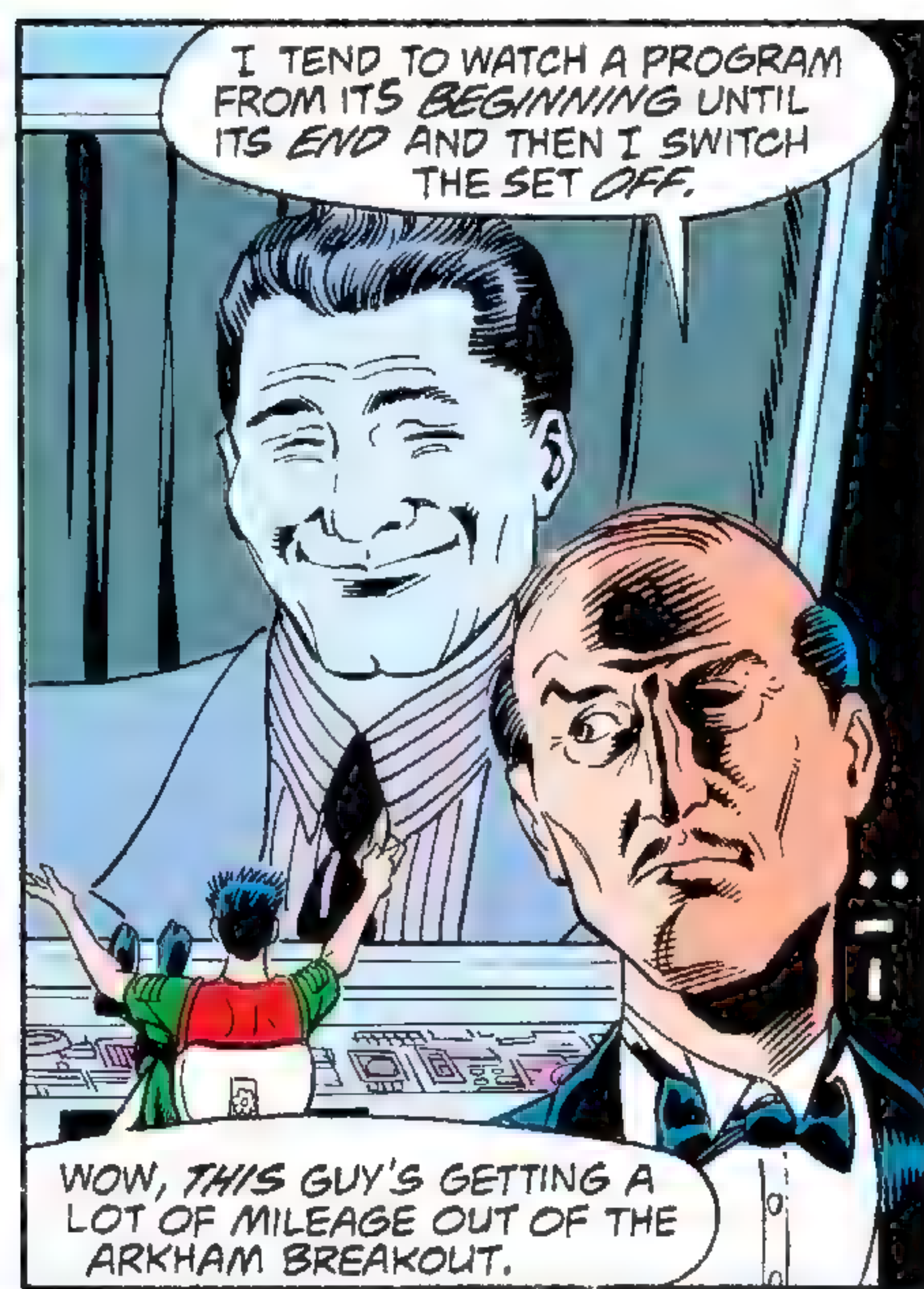
HE'S A DANGER TO HIMSELF AND EVERYONE HE COMES IN CONTACT WITH.



AND A TORTURED CHILDHOOD IS NO EXCUSE FOR BECOMING A MONSTER.

I KNOW.









WELL, LET'S GIVE OUR AUDIENCE A CHANCE TO QUESTION DR. FLANDERS.

DO ANY OF YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO ASK OUR GUEST?



ACTUALLY, CASSIE, I HAD A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS.

GO AHEAD, SIR. THIS IS AN OPEN FORUM.



WHAT LETTER IS NEVER FOUND IN THE ALPHABET?

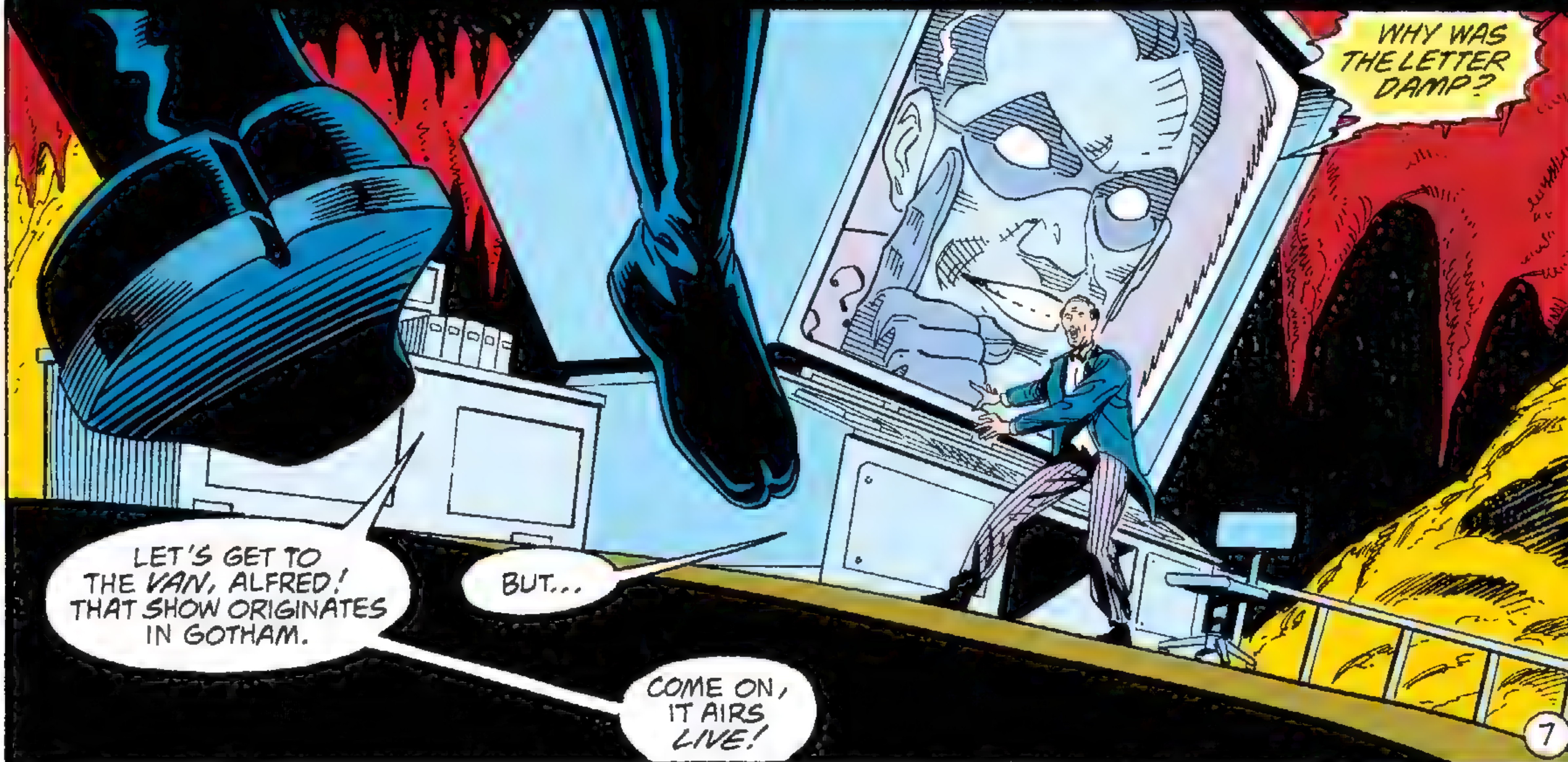
WHAT DOES THE BALLPLAYER LIKE TO BE CALLED AT HOME?

I'M NOT SURE I--



OH MY GOD!

WHAT TRAVELS AROUND THE WORLD BUT NEVER LEAVES ITS CORNER?



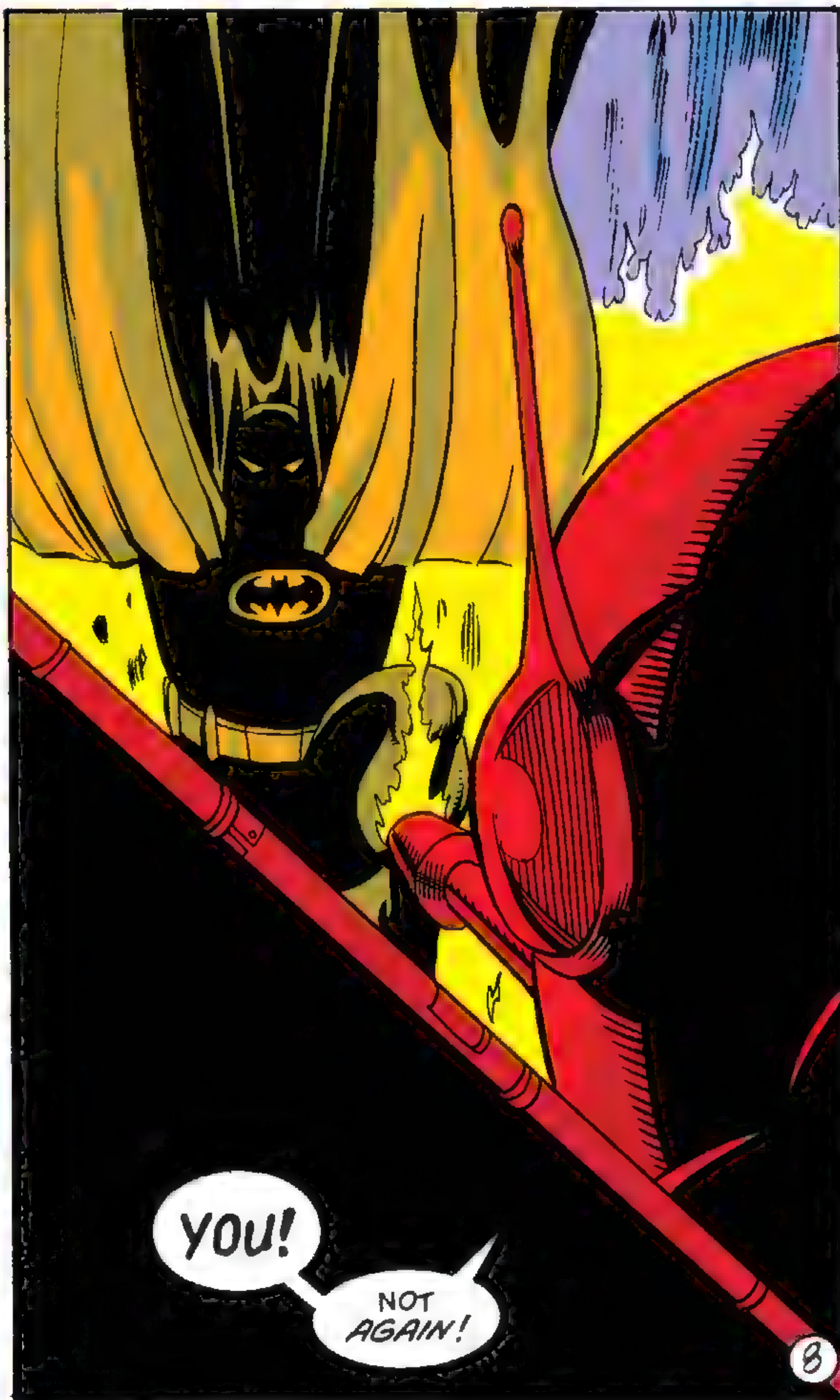
WHY WAS THE LETTER DAMP?

LET'S GET TO THE VAN, ALFRED! THAT SHOW ORIGINATES IN GOTHAM.

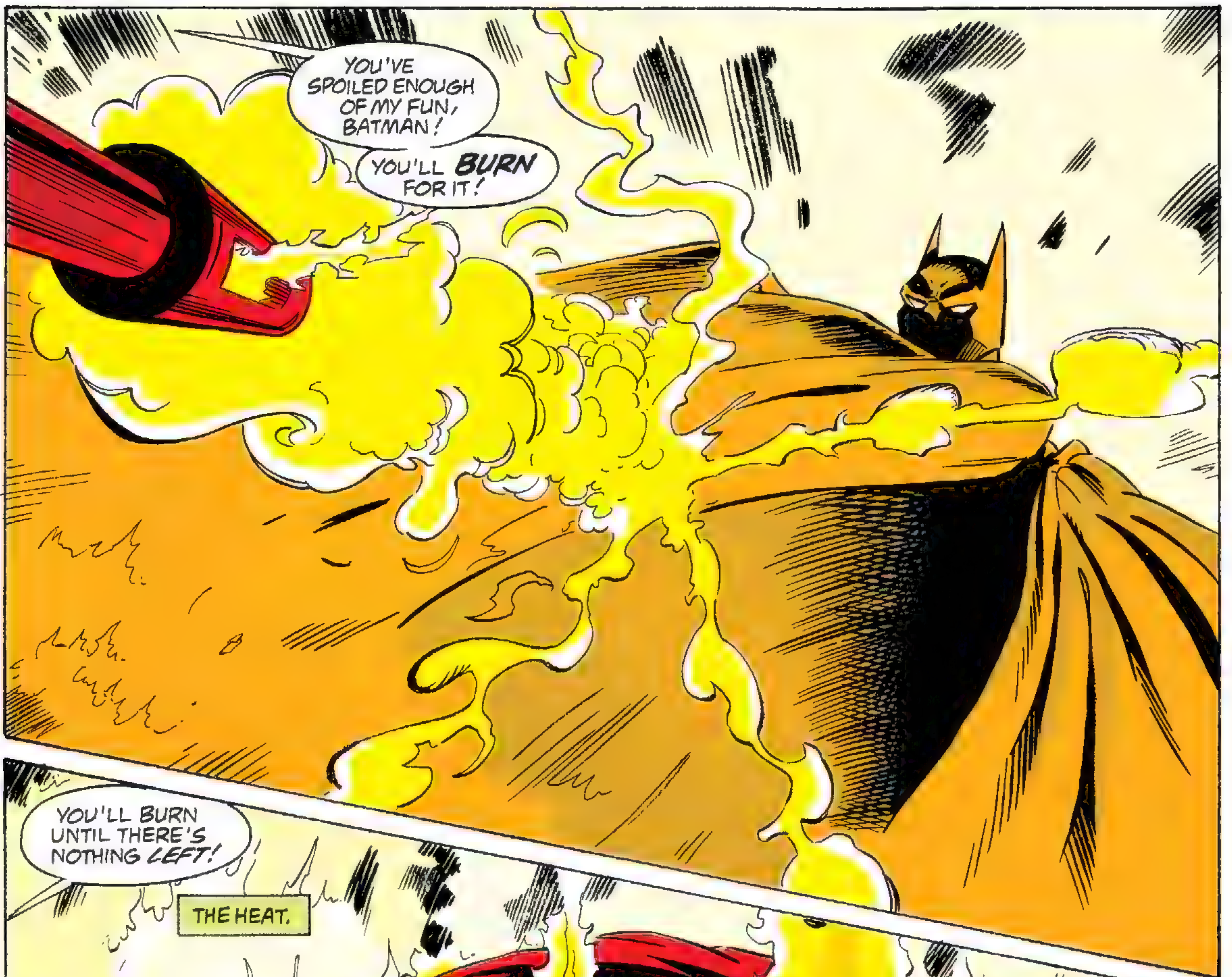
BUT...

COME ON, IT AIRS LIVE!









YOU'VE SPOILED ENOUGH OF MY FUN, BATMAN!

YOU'LL **BURN** FOR IT!



YOU'LL BURN UNTIL THERE'S NOTHING LEFT!

THE HEAT.

THE HEAT IS OVERWHELMING.

IT SAPS MY LAST RESERVE OF STRENGTH.





BUT I'M NOT  
BURNING.

FIFTEEN-LAYER NOMEX  
AND A REBREATHER  
SHIELD ME FROM THE  
WORST OF IT.

STILL THE HEAT  
REACHES ME,  
STEALS MY  
STAMINA.



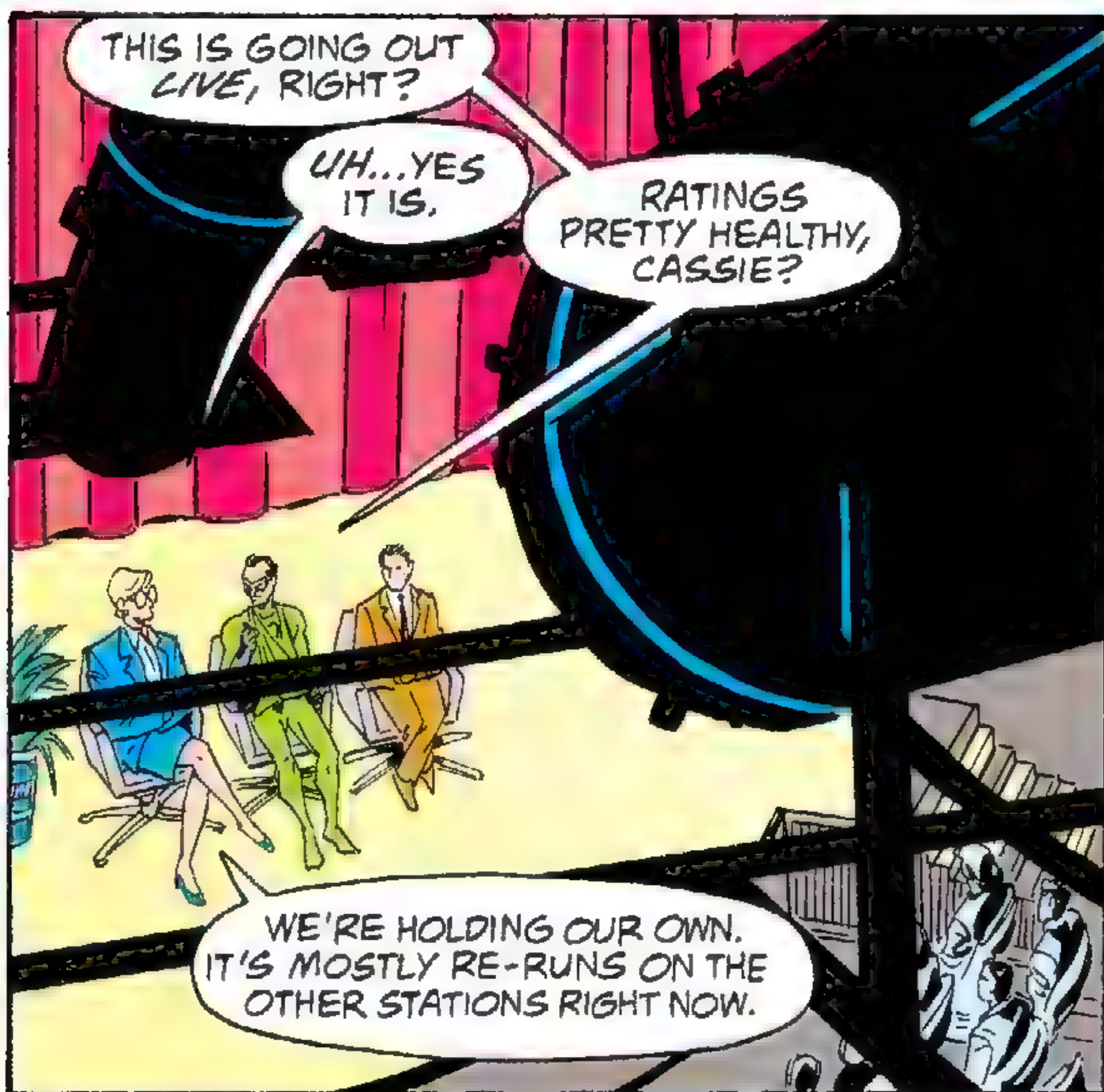
DON'T HAVE  
ANY TO SPARE.

HAVE TO TAKE LYNN  
BEFORE IT'S ALL GONE.

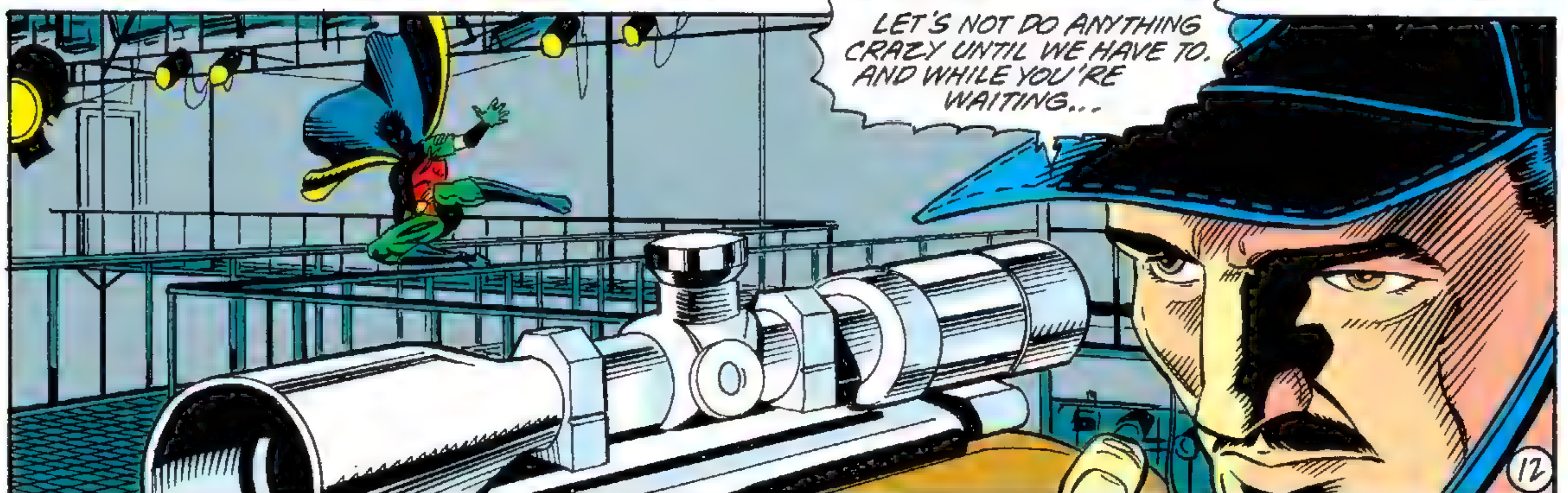
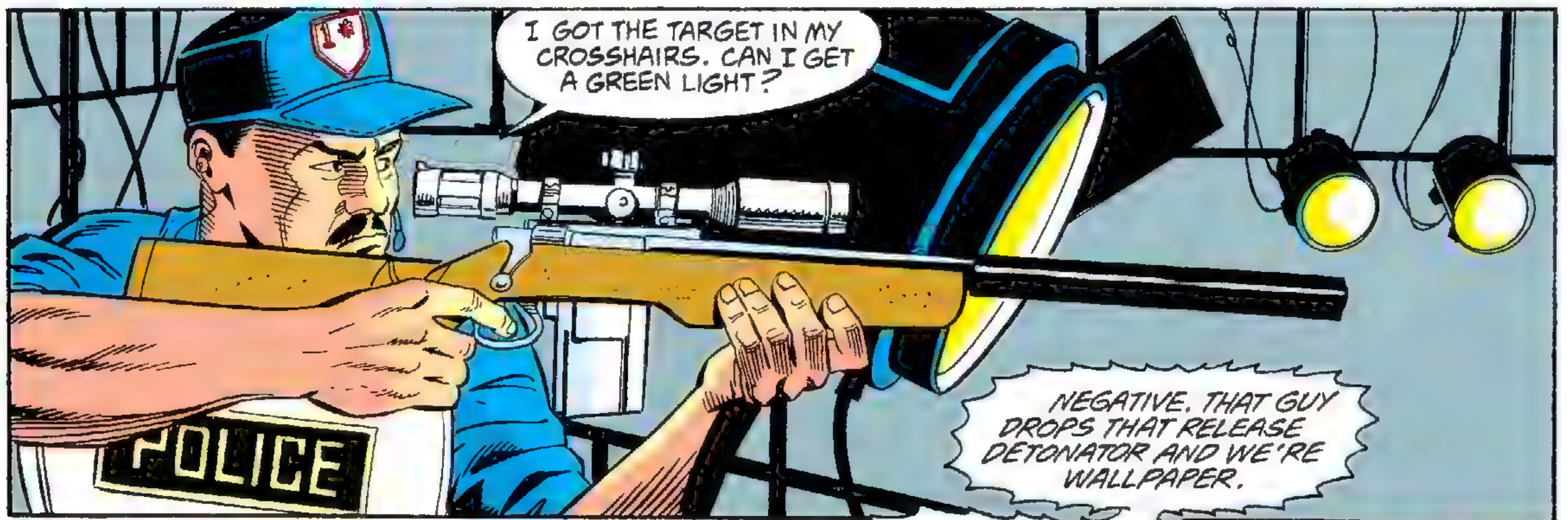
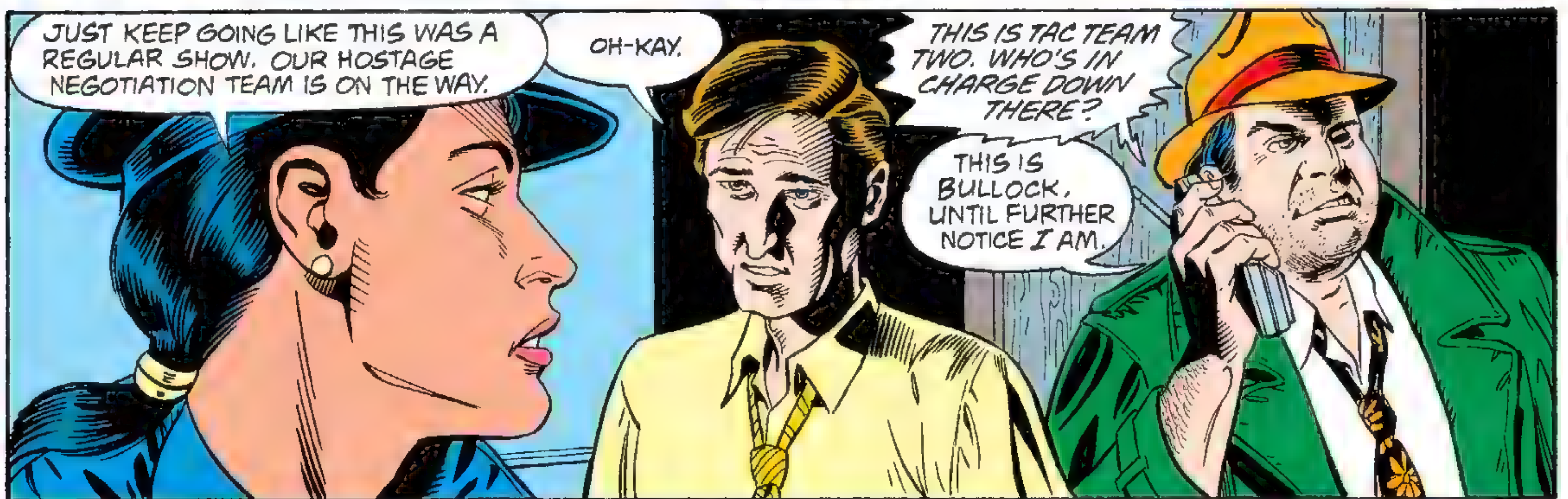
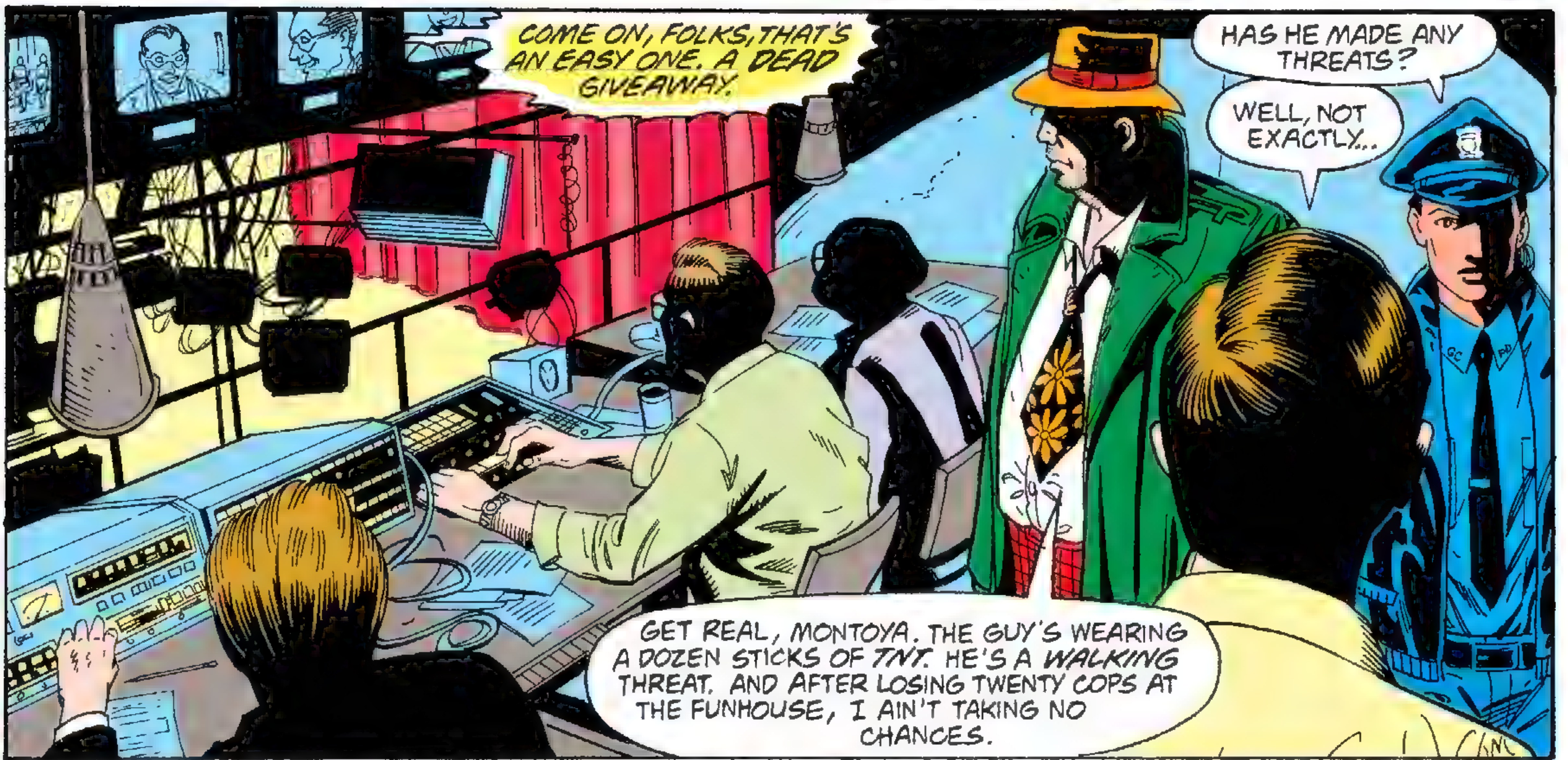


BEFORE ALL  
OF GOTHAM  
BURNS.

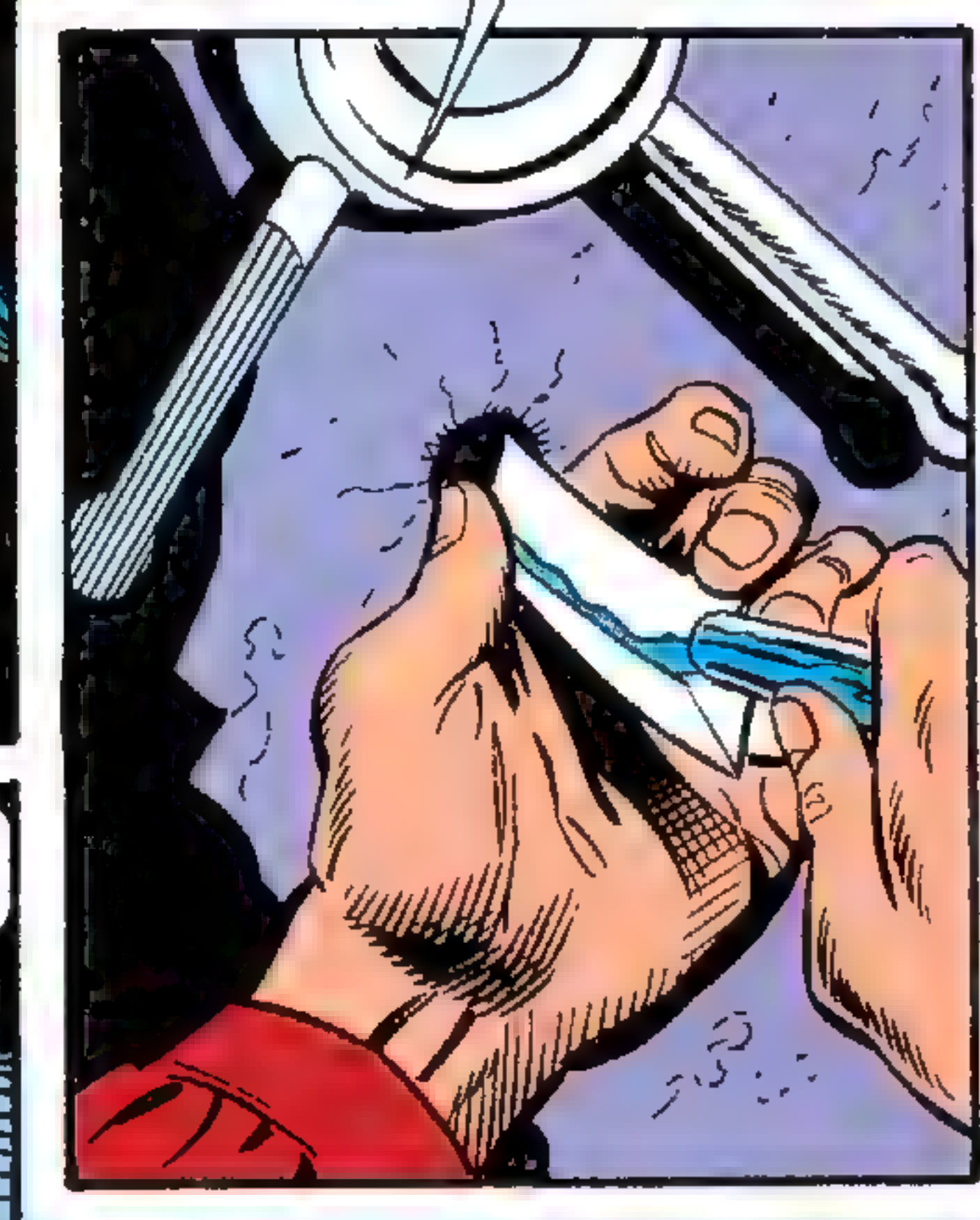
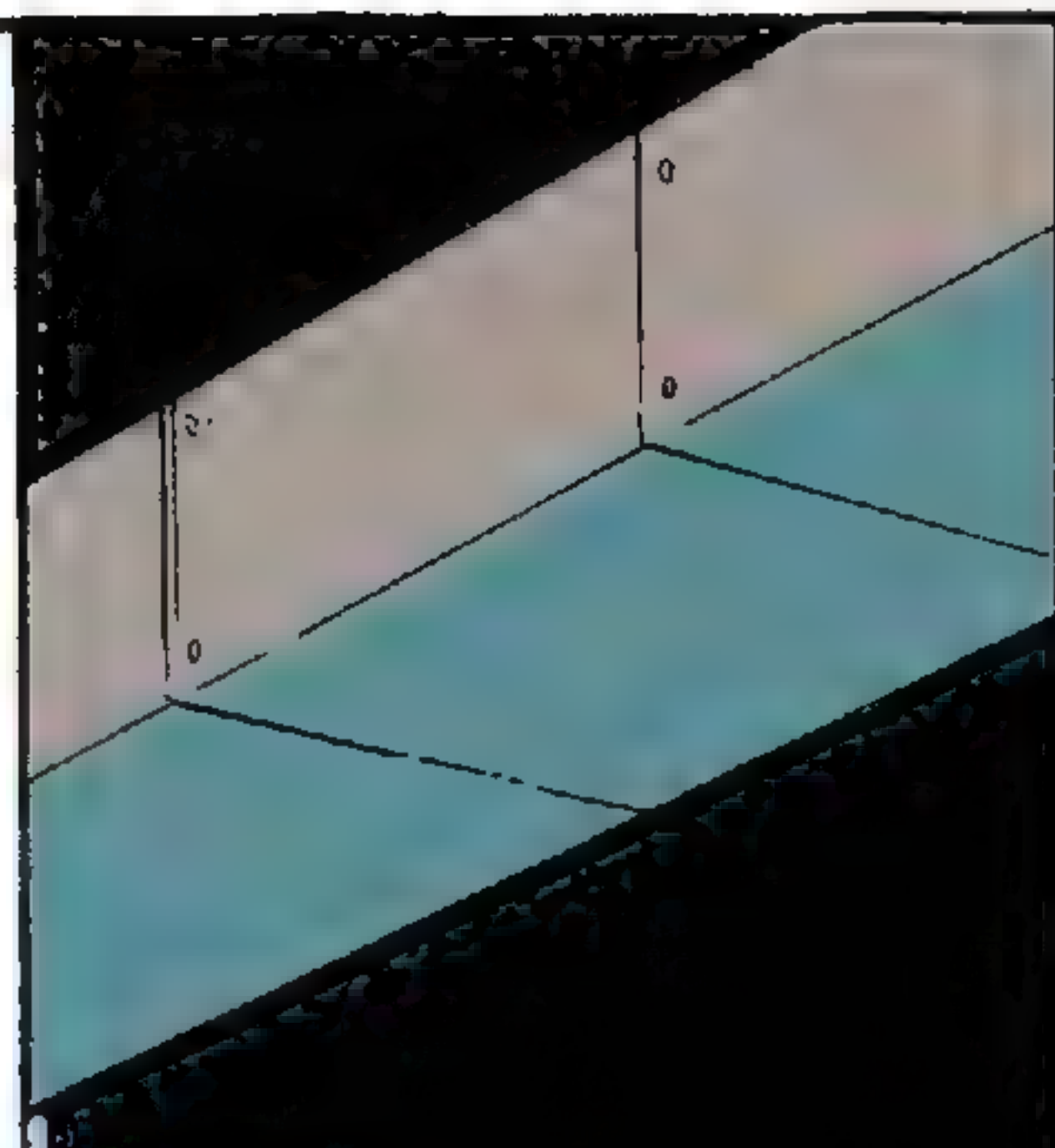
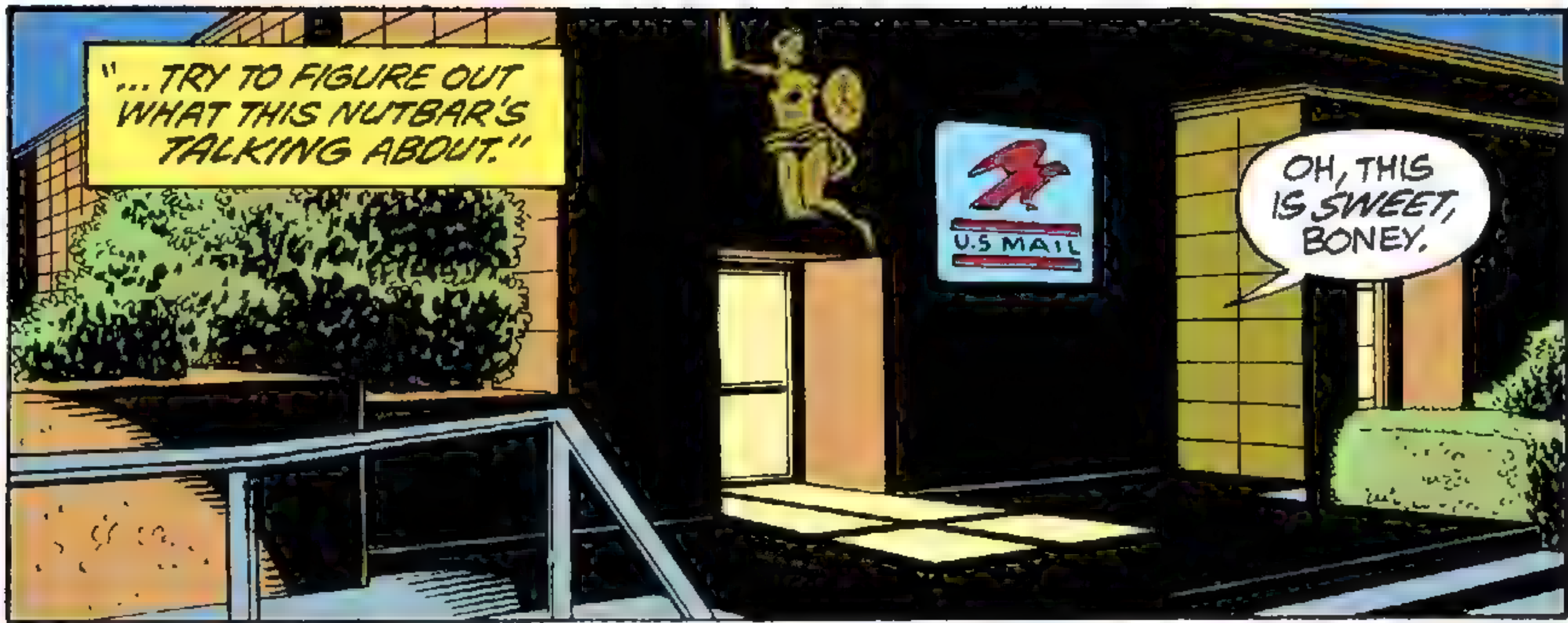




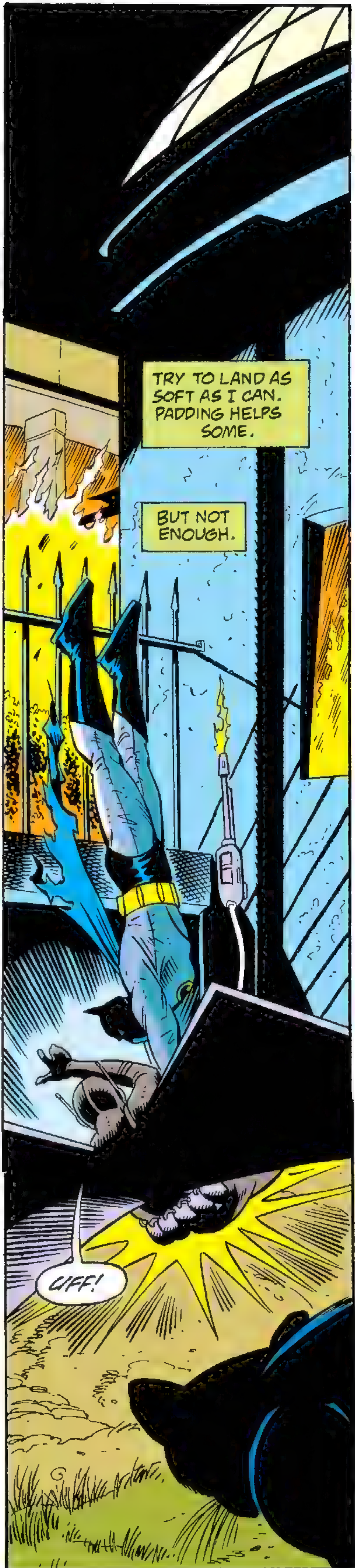








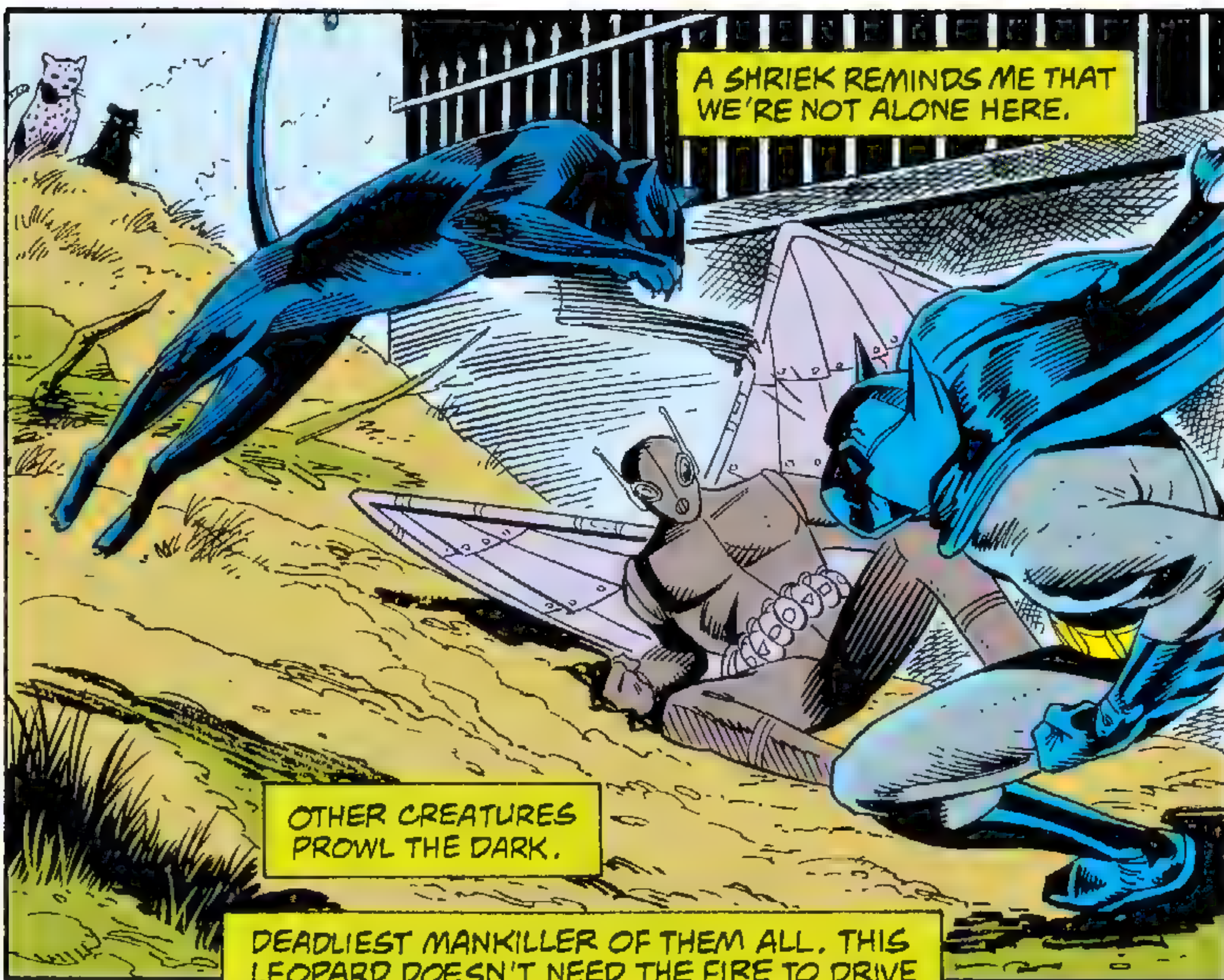




TRY TO LAND AS  
SOFT AS I CAN.  
PADDING HELPS  
SOME.

BUT NOT  
ENOUGH.

CLIFF!



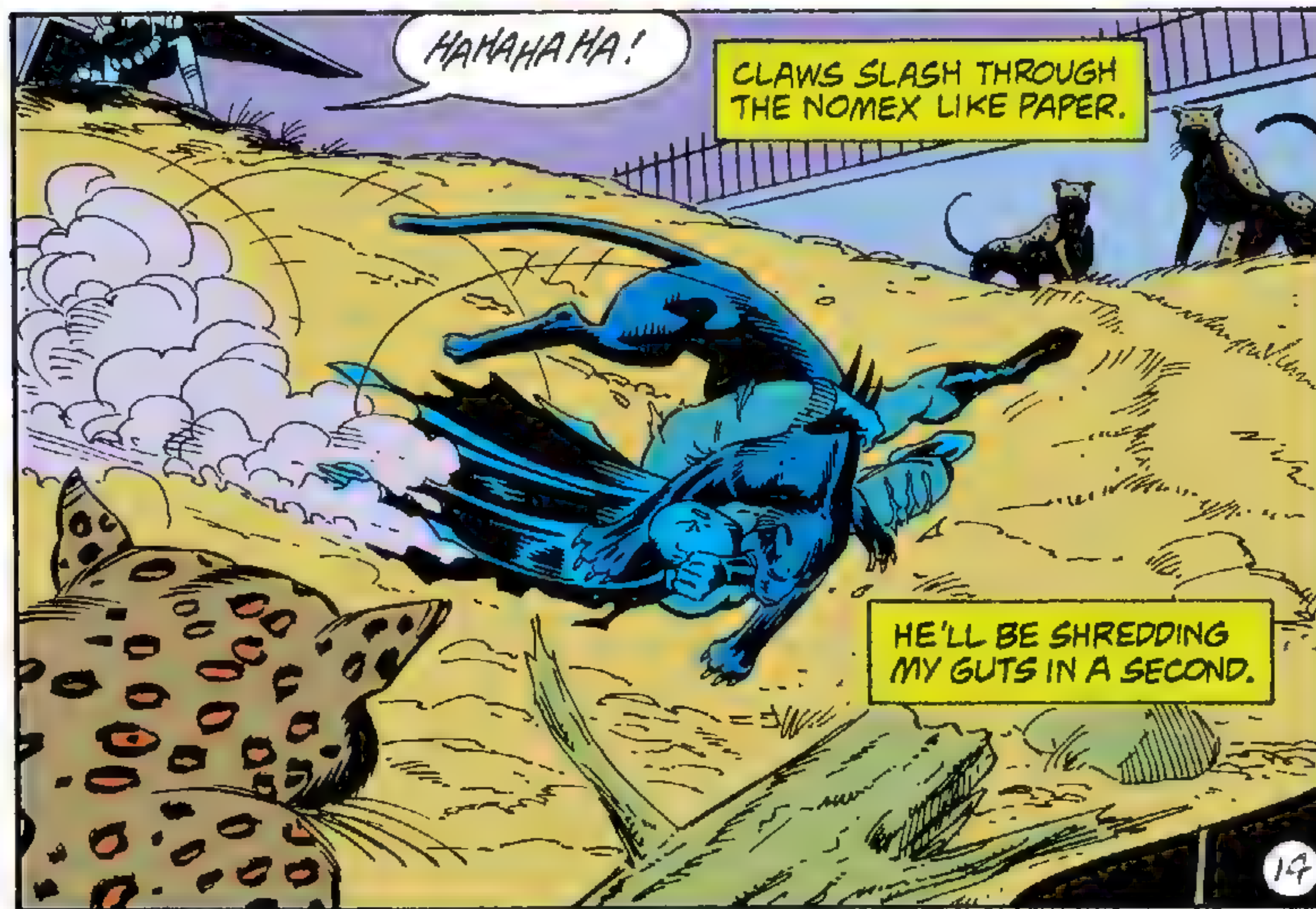
A SHRIEK REMINDS ME THAT  
WE'RE NOT ALONE HERE.

OTHER CREATURES  
PROWL THE DARK.

DEADLIEST MANKILLER OF THEM ALL. THIS  
LEOPARD DOESN'T NEED THE FIRE TO DRIVE  
IT TO A KILLING FRENZY.



HELMET SAVES MY  
SKULL FROM TWO-  
INCH FANGS.



HAHAHAHA!

CLAWS SLASH THROUGH  
THE NOMEX LIKE PAPER.

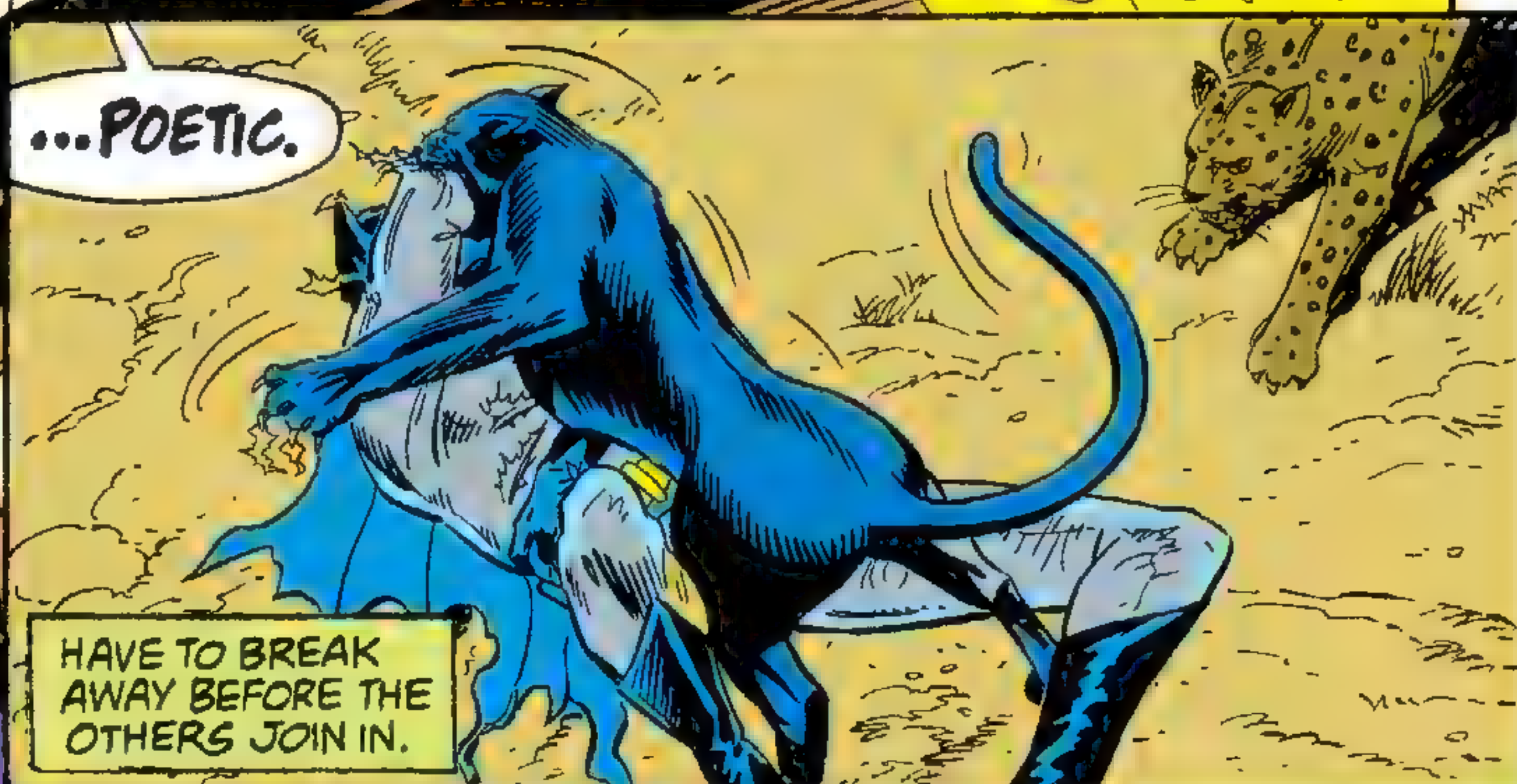
HE'LL BE SHREDDING  
MY GUTS IN A SECOND.





♪ All the animals in the zoo are jumping up and down on you! ♪

I'D MUCH RATHER YOU'D BURNED, BATMAN. BUT A FLYING RODENT BEING EATEN BY A CAT IS SO MUCH MORE...



...POETIC.

HAVE TO BREAK AWAY BEFORE THE OTHERS JOIN IN.



MEANT THE FIRE RETARDANT OPTION FOR FIREFLY.

KITTY DOESN'T LIKE HALON.



RUN FOR THE FENCE BEFORE THEY RECOVER.

IT'S A MILLION MILES AWAY.

15



FLAMEPROOF  
OUTFIT IS  
CUMBERSOME.

ADD THAT TO EXHAUSTION  
AND INJURIES AND I'M  
NOT EXACTLY AT THE TOP  
OF MY FORM.

STOP COMPLAINING.

KEEP MOVING.

YOUR PROBLEMS  
DON'T MATTER.

YOU DON'T  
MATTER.

ONLY  
GOTHAM  
MATTERS.

HUH?





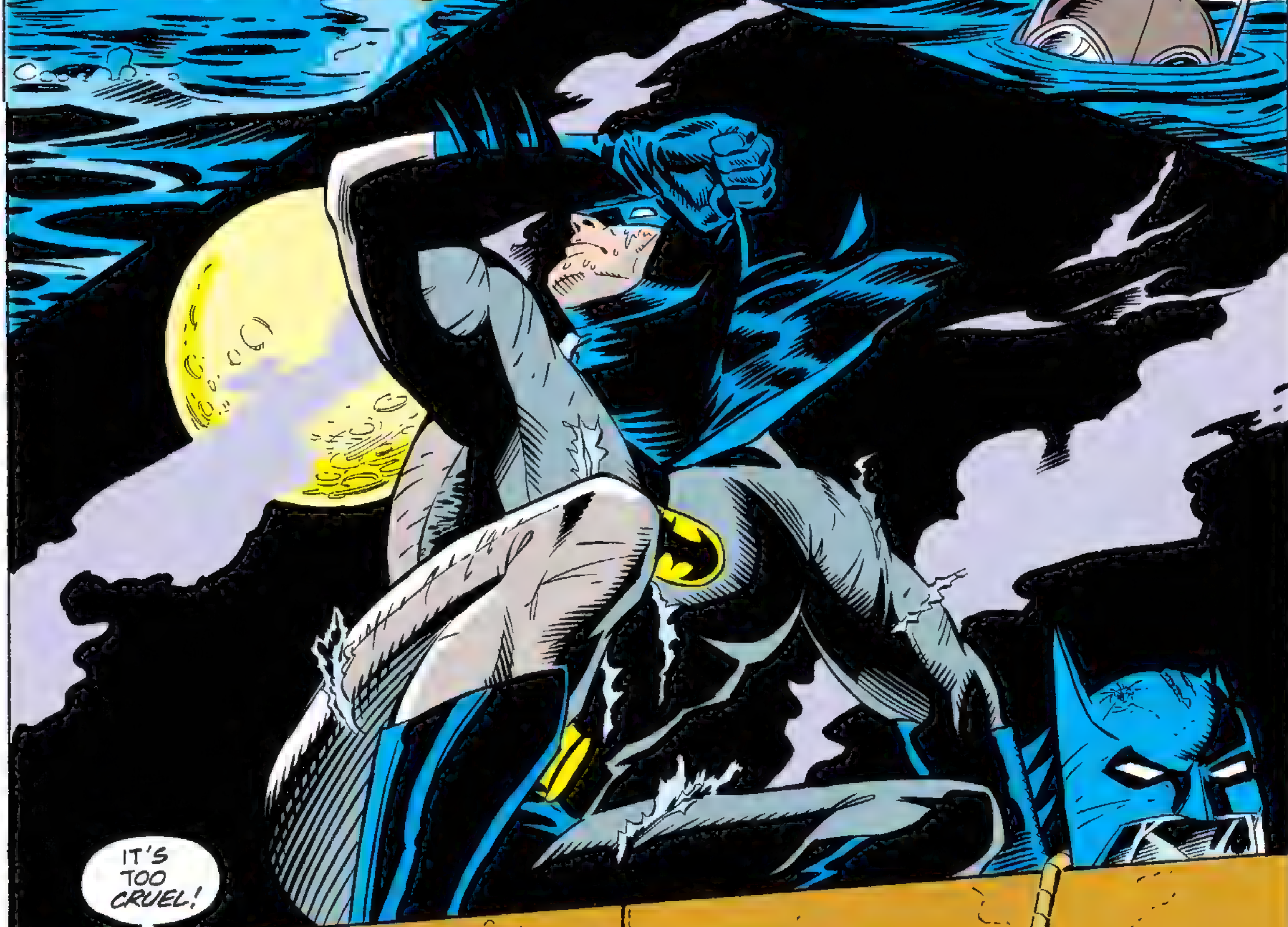
NO!

NOOOOOO!



YOU CAN'T  
LEAVE ME  
LIKE THIS!

YOU  
CAN'T!

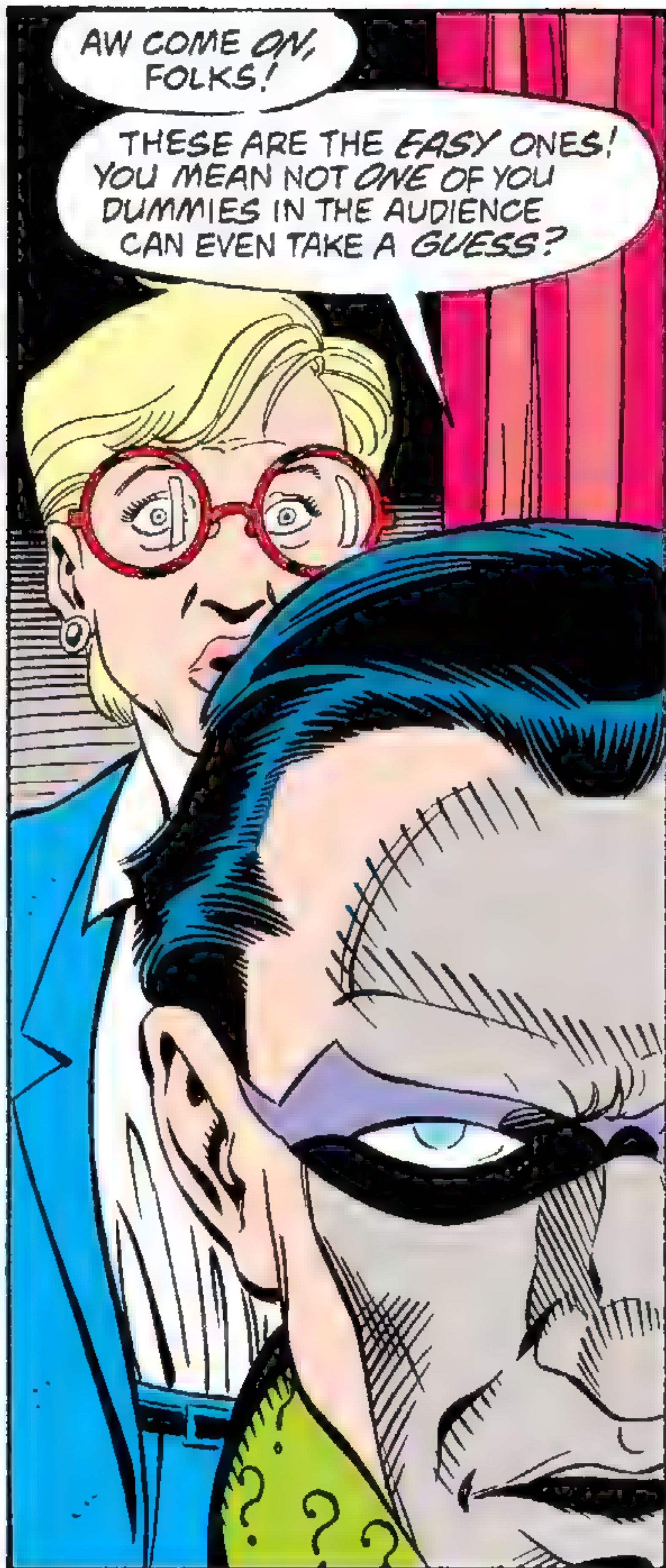


IT'S  
TOO  
CRUEL!

COULDN'T PULL HIM UP  
IF I WANTED TO. WANT  
TO QUESTION HIM ABOUT  
BANE. TOO TIRED.

JUST DON'T  
HAVE ANYTHING  
LEFT.





AW COME ON, FOLKS!

THESE ARE THE *EASY* ONES! YOU MEAN NOT *ONE* OF YOU DUMMIES IN THE AUDIENCE CAN EVEN TAKE A *GUESS*?



MISS RUDOLPHO, IS THIS THE BEST YOU CAN DO? I HATE TO NITPICK BUT YOUR AUDIENCE MEMBERS ARE SUBMORONS.

I SHOULD HAVE PICKED ANOTHER SHOW TO DEBUT MY CRIME ON. MAYBE ENRICO RIVOLI OR--



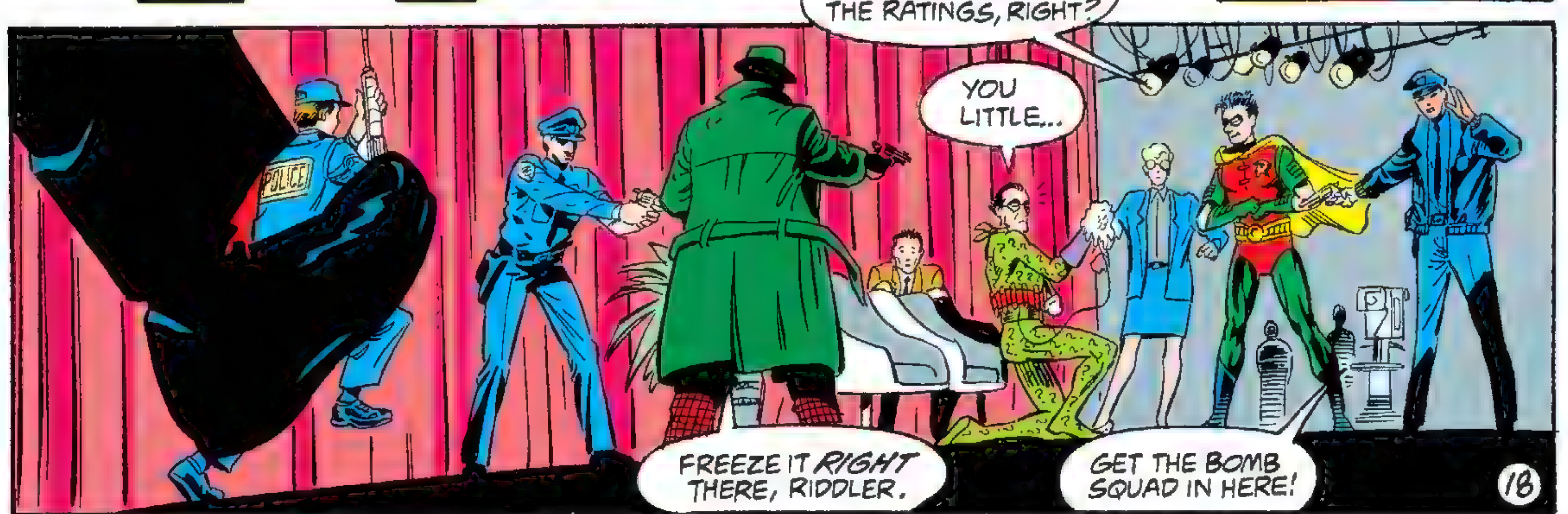
UNNH?



WHAH?

JUST SOME FAST-ACTING EPOXY TO KEEP THAT HAND FROM RELAXING.

YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO *BOMB* IN THE RATINGS, RIGHT?

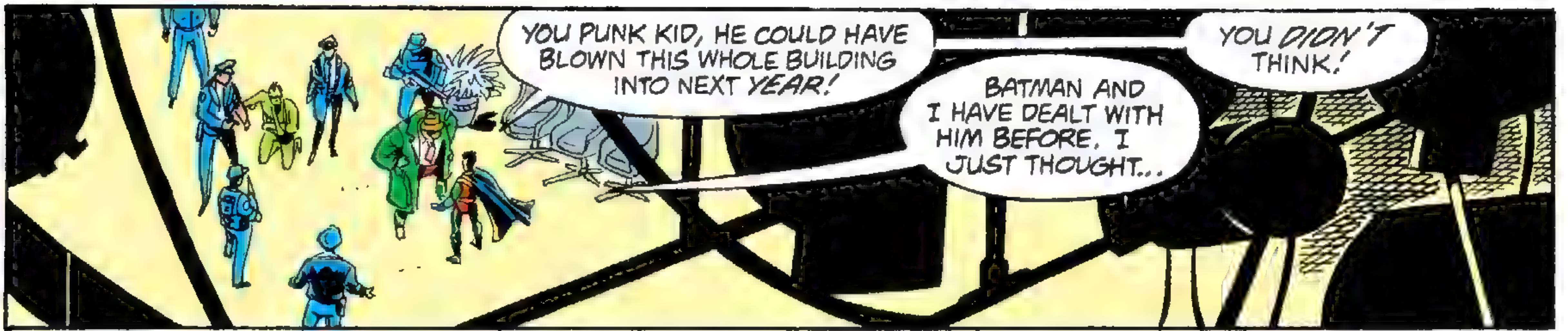


YOU LITTLE...

FREEZE IT RIGHT THERE, RIDDLER.

GET THE BOMB SQUAD IN HERE!





YOU PUNK KID, HE COULD HAVE BLOWN THIS WHOLE BUILDING INTO NEXT YEAR!

YOU DIDN'T THINK!

BATMAN AND I HAVE DEALT WITH HIM BEFORE. I JUST THOUGHT...

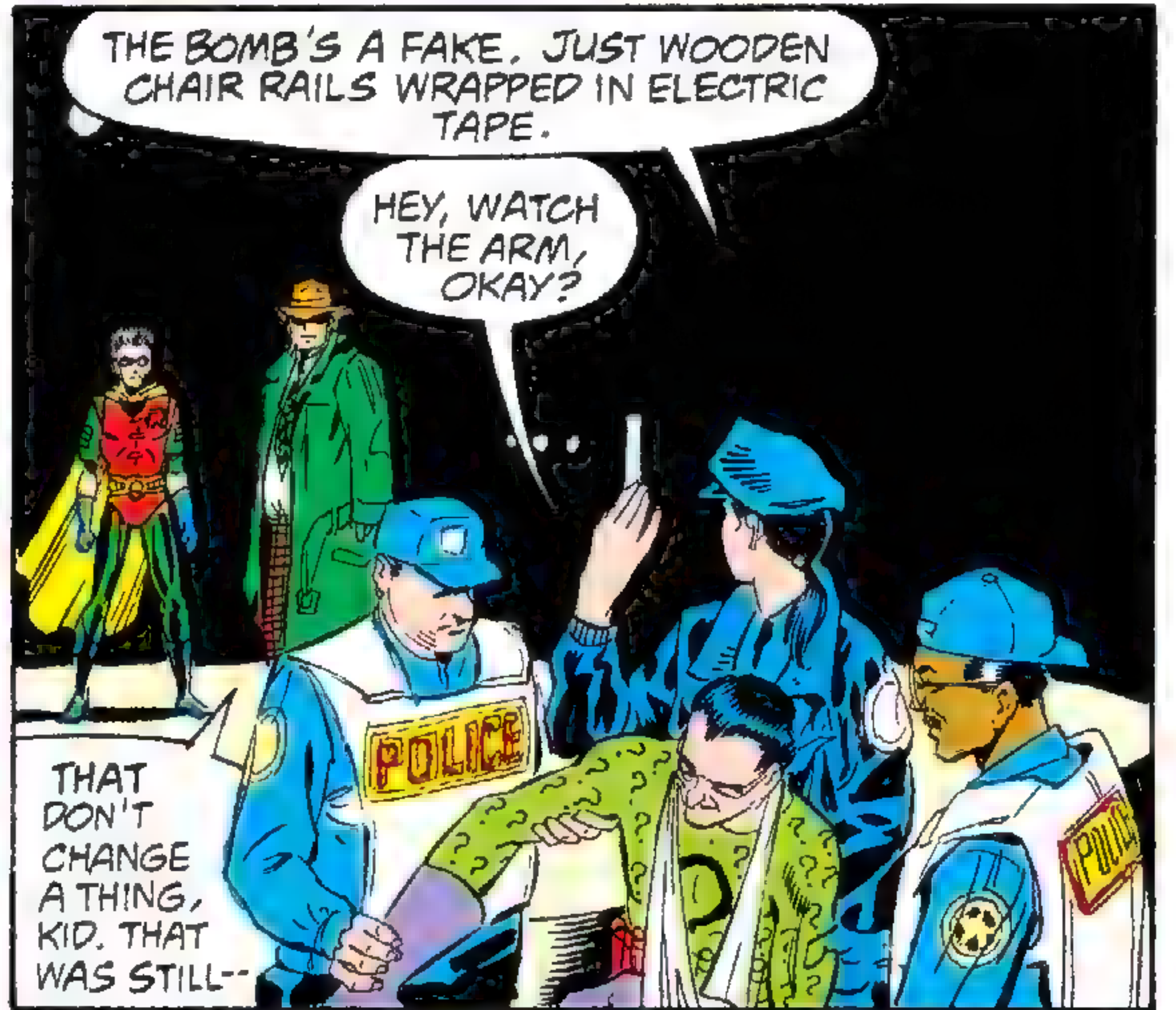


AND IF I KNOW THE BAT-FREAK LIKE I THINK I DO, HE'LL HAVE A FEW WORDS ON THE SUBJECT HIMSELF.

WE HAD THIS PSYCHO COVERED.

BUT...

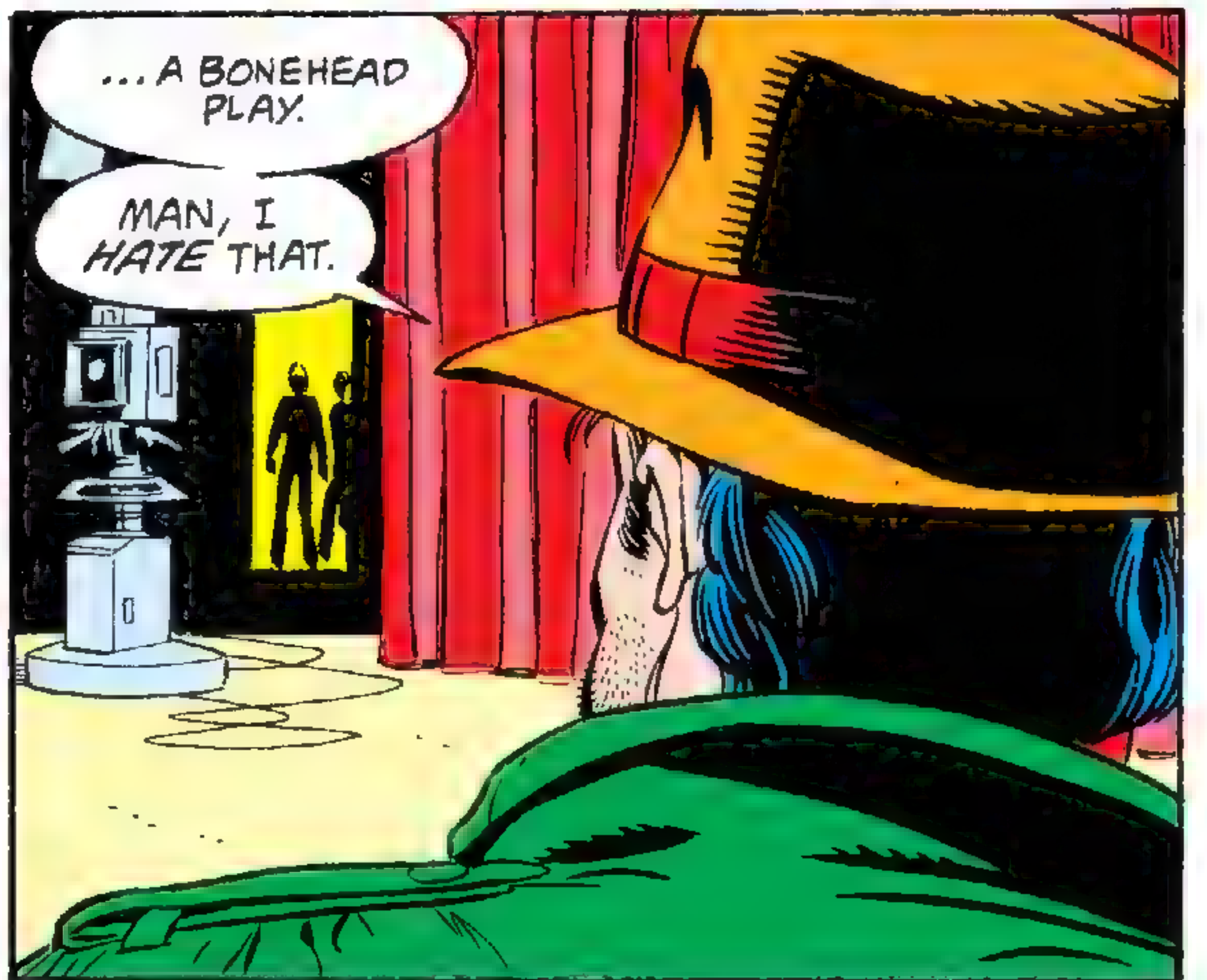
YO, HARV...



THE BOMB'S A FAKE. JUST WOODEN CHAIR RAILS WRAPPED IN ELECTRIC TAPE.

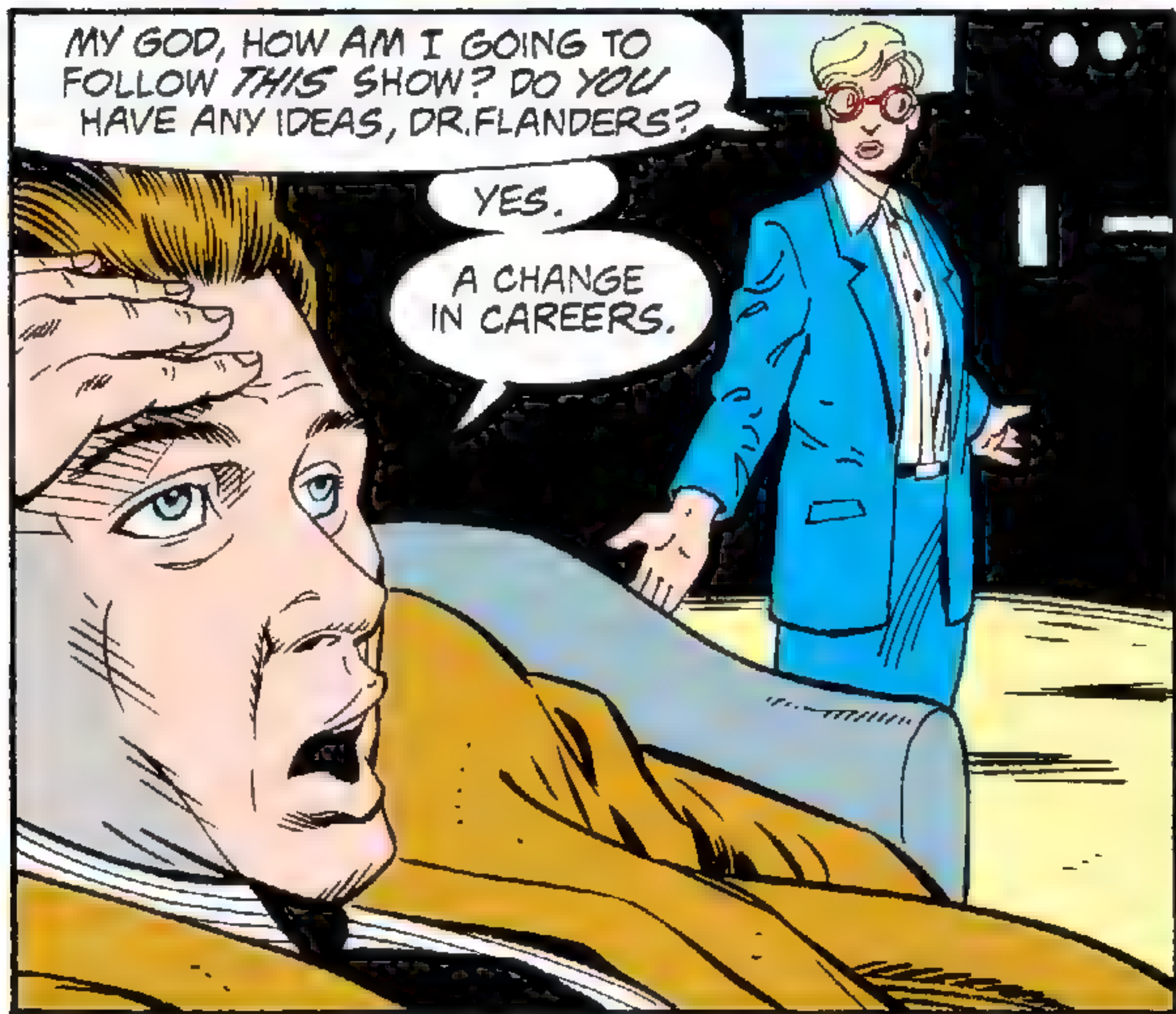
HEY, WATCH THE ARM, OKAY?

THAT DON'T CHANGE A THING, KID. THAT WAS STILL--



... A BONEHEAD PLAY.

MAN, I HATE THAT.



MY GOD, HOW AM I GOING TO FOLLOW THIS SHOW? DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS, DR. FLANDERS?

YES.

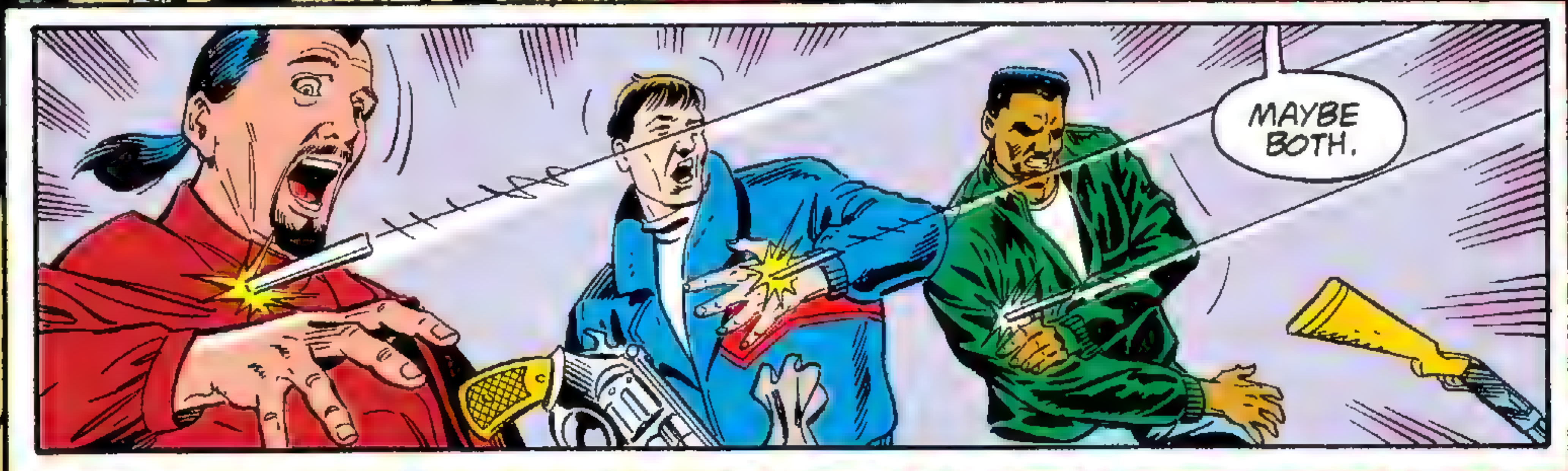
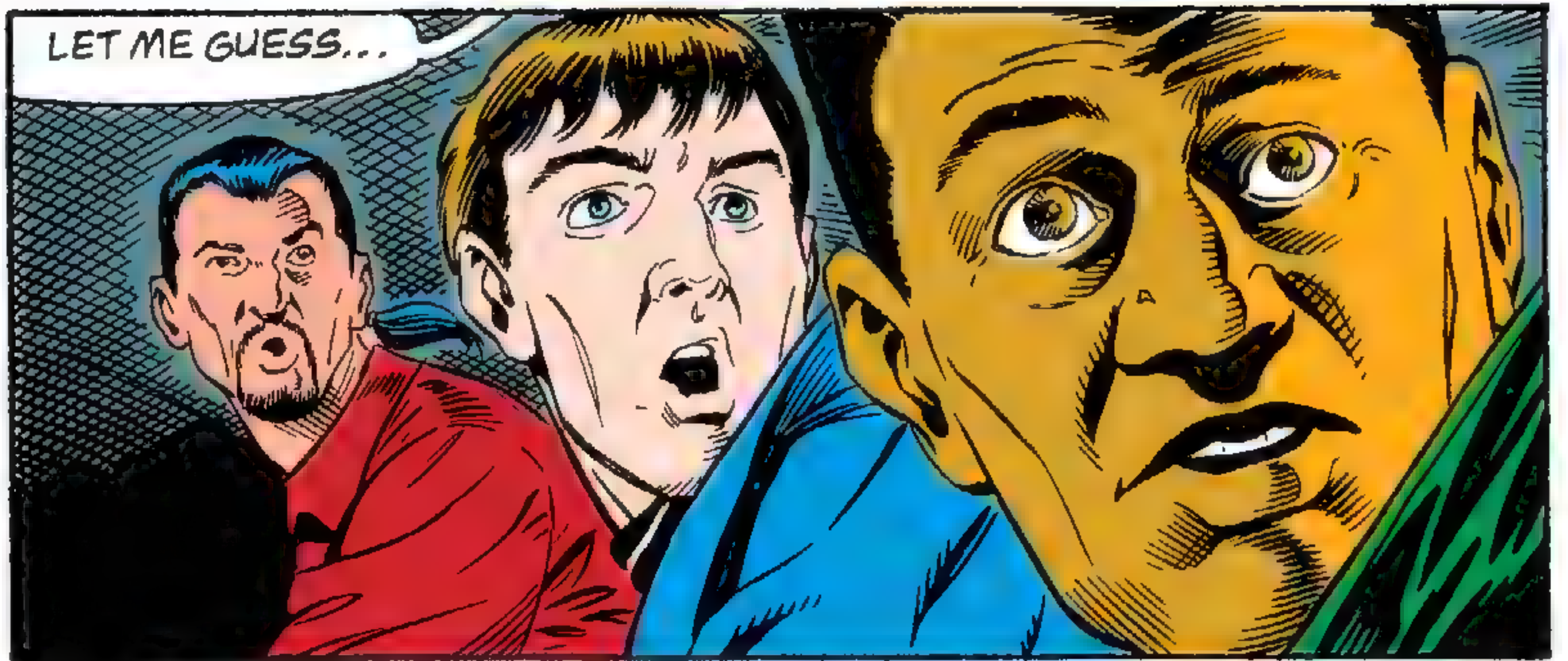
A CHANGE IN CAREERS.



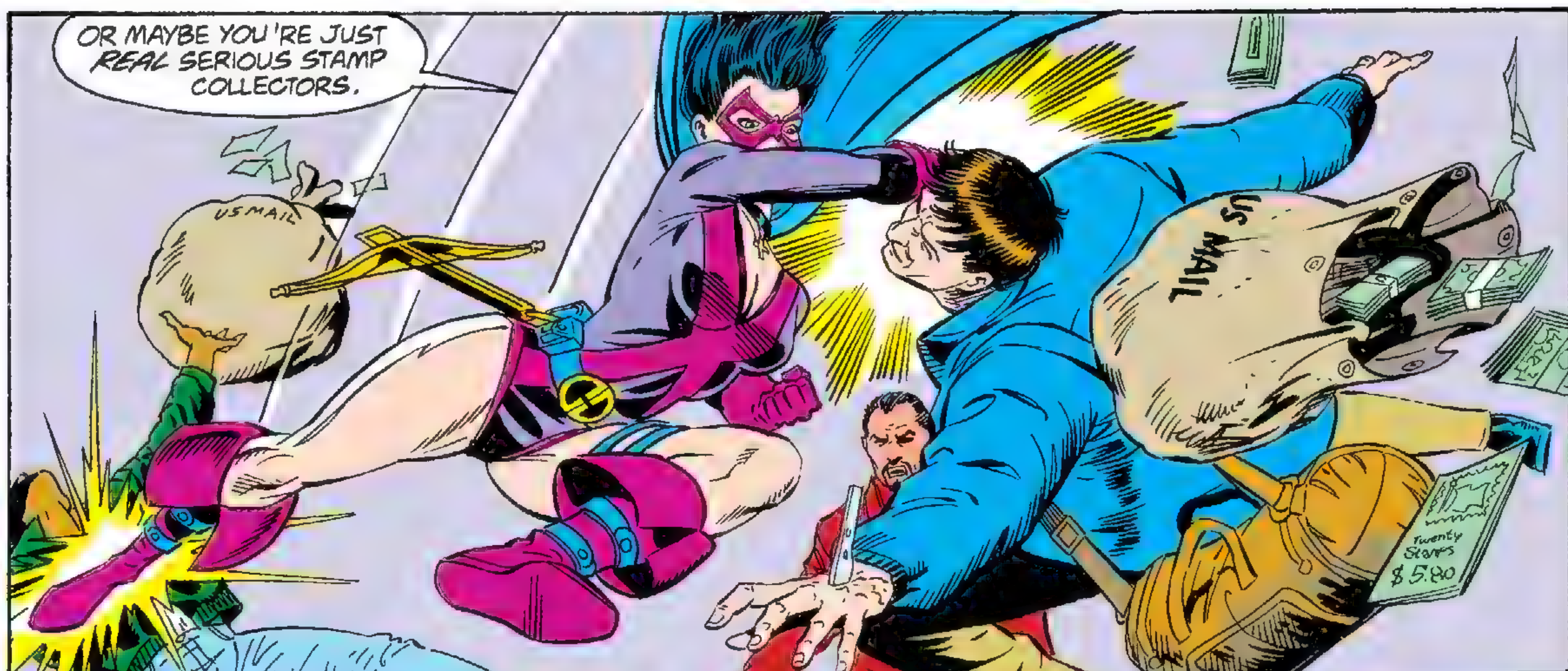
SO WHAT WAS WITH ALL THE CRAZY RIDDLES? WHERE'S THE SCORE YOU'RE PULLING DOWN?

FIGURE IT OUT FOR YOURSELF.















KNIGHTFALL™

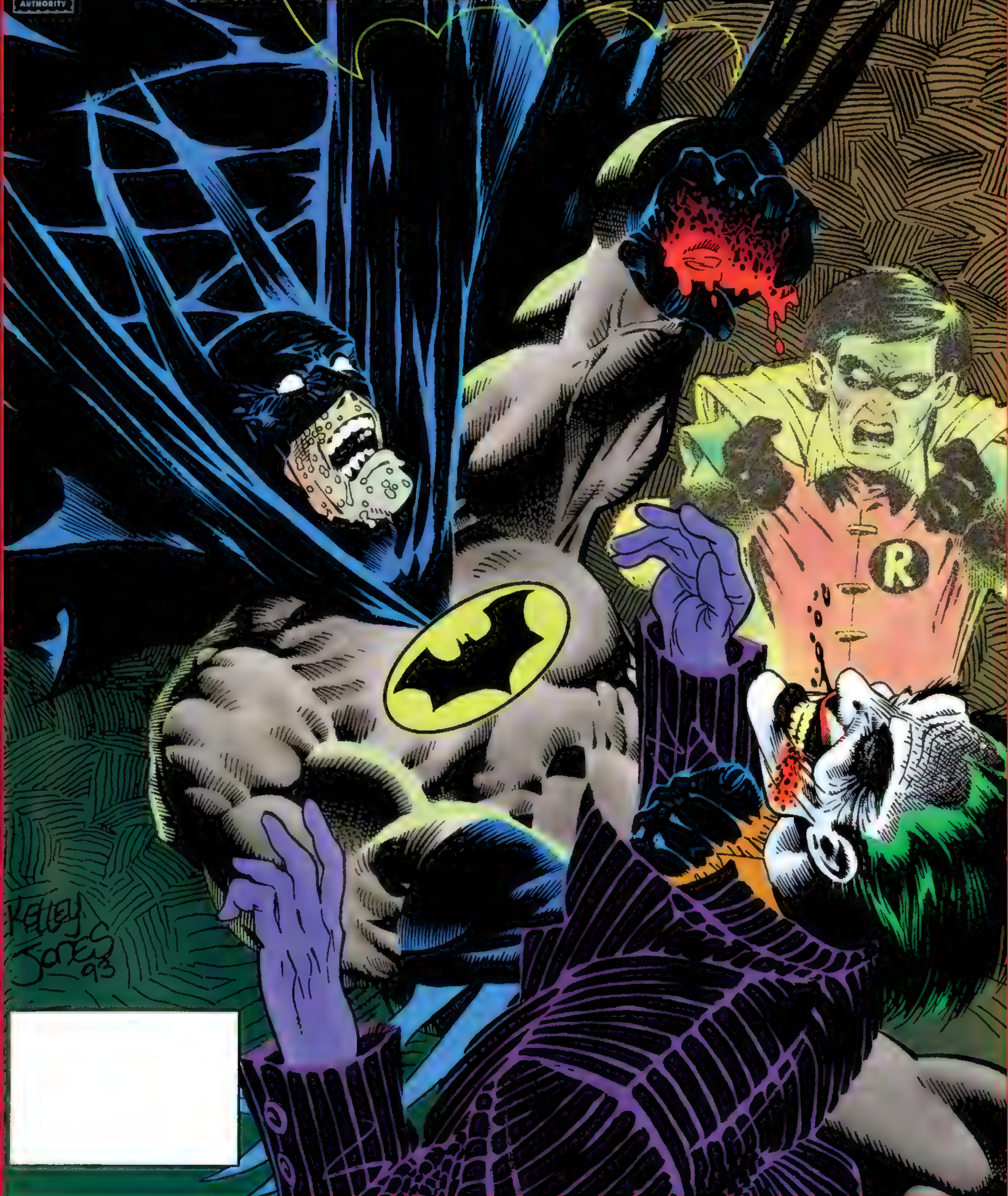


BATMAN

496  
EARLY  
JULY 92



# BATMAN

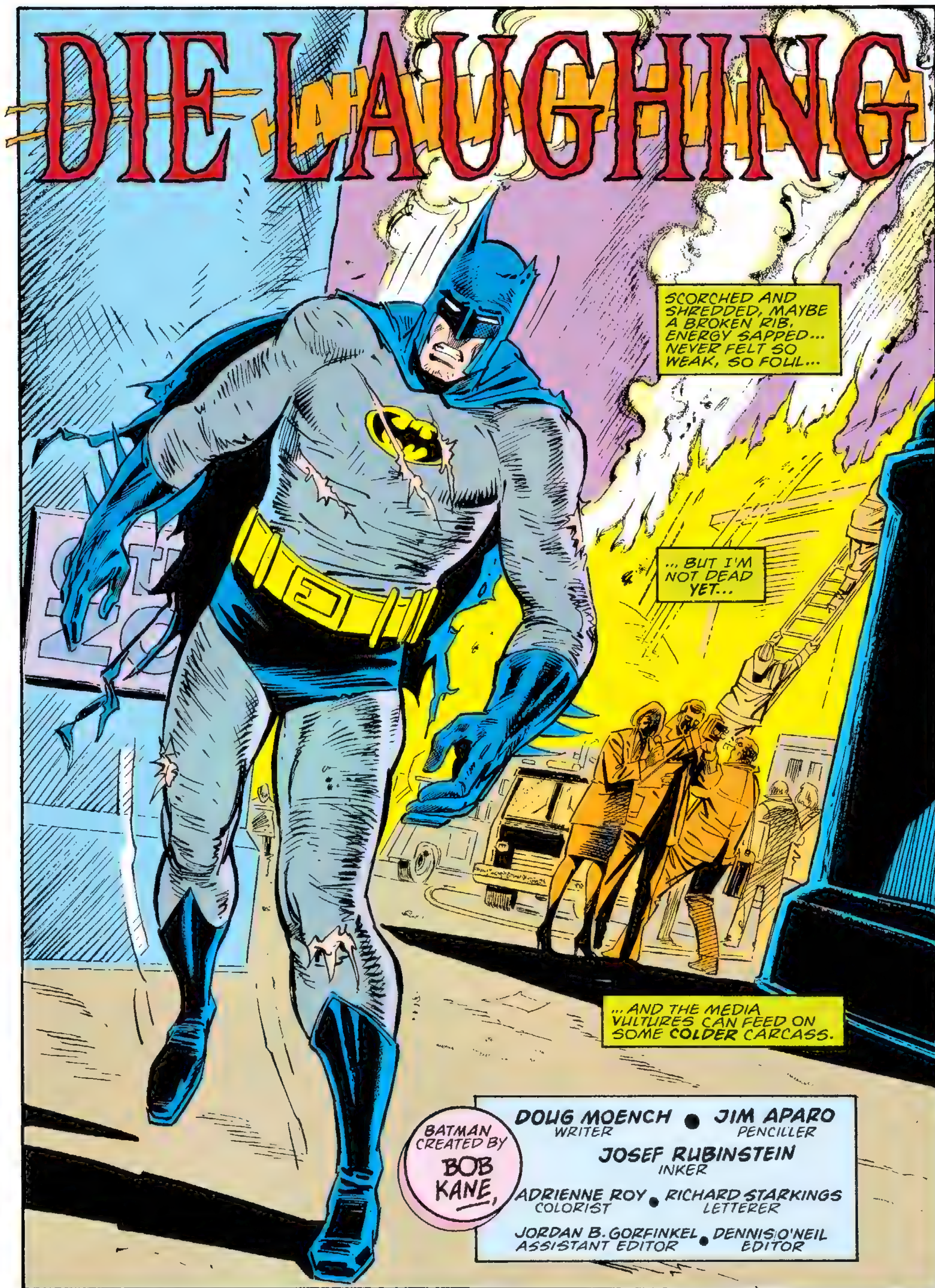






Cover art by  
**KELLEY JONES**





# DIE LAUGHING

SCORCHED AND SHREDDED, MAYBE A BROKEN RIB, ENERGY SAPPED... NEVER FELT SO WEAK, SO FOUL...

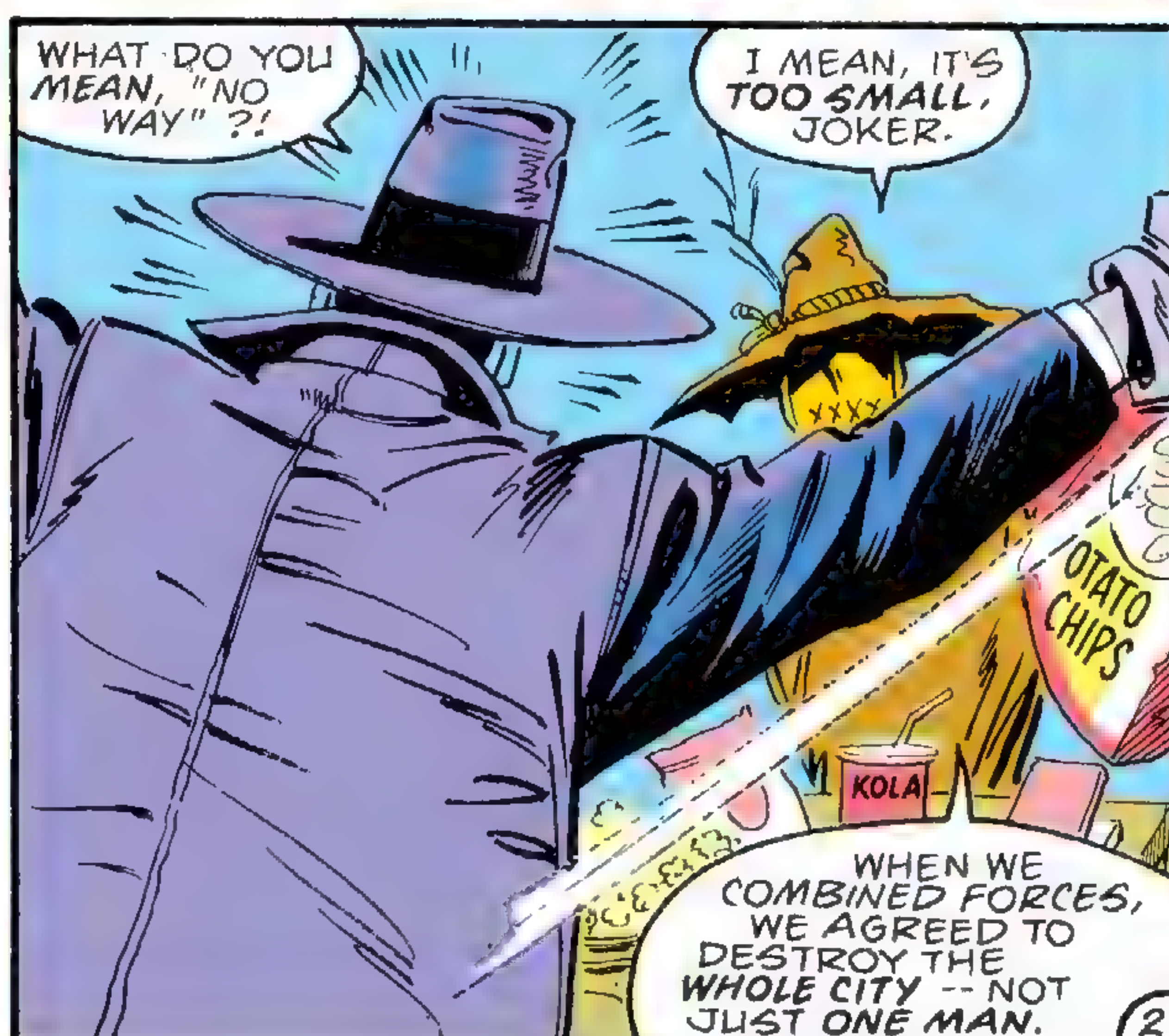
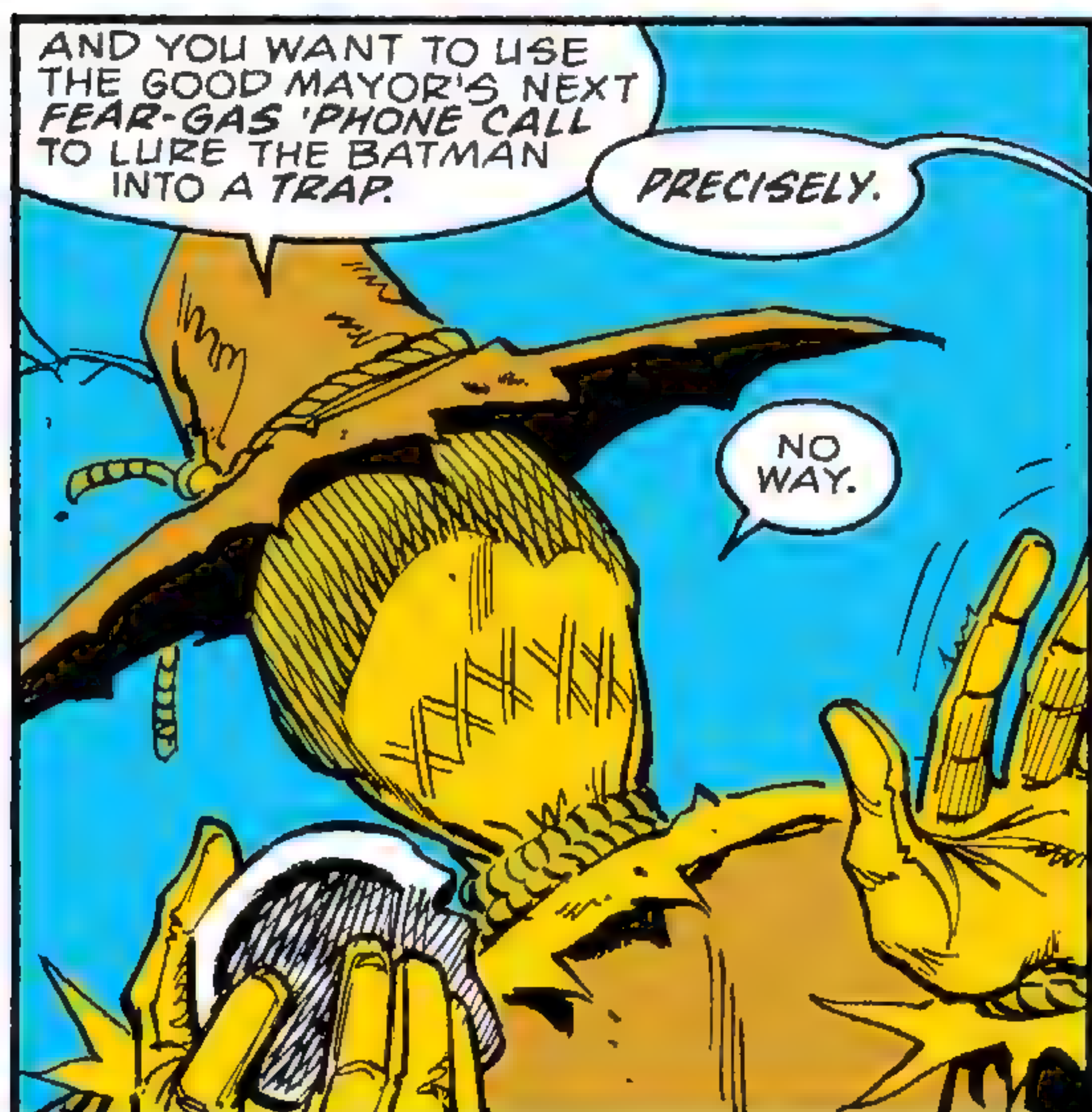
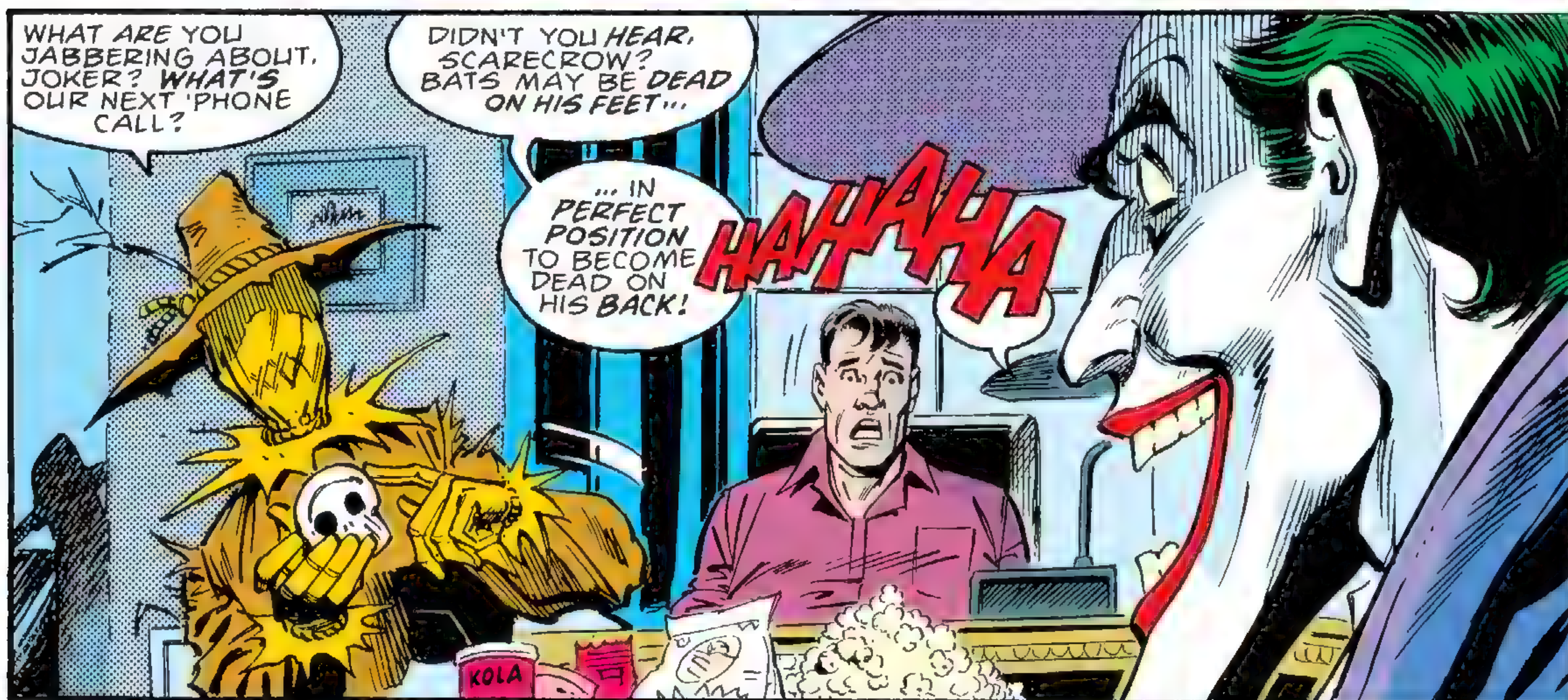
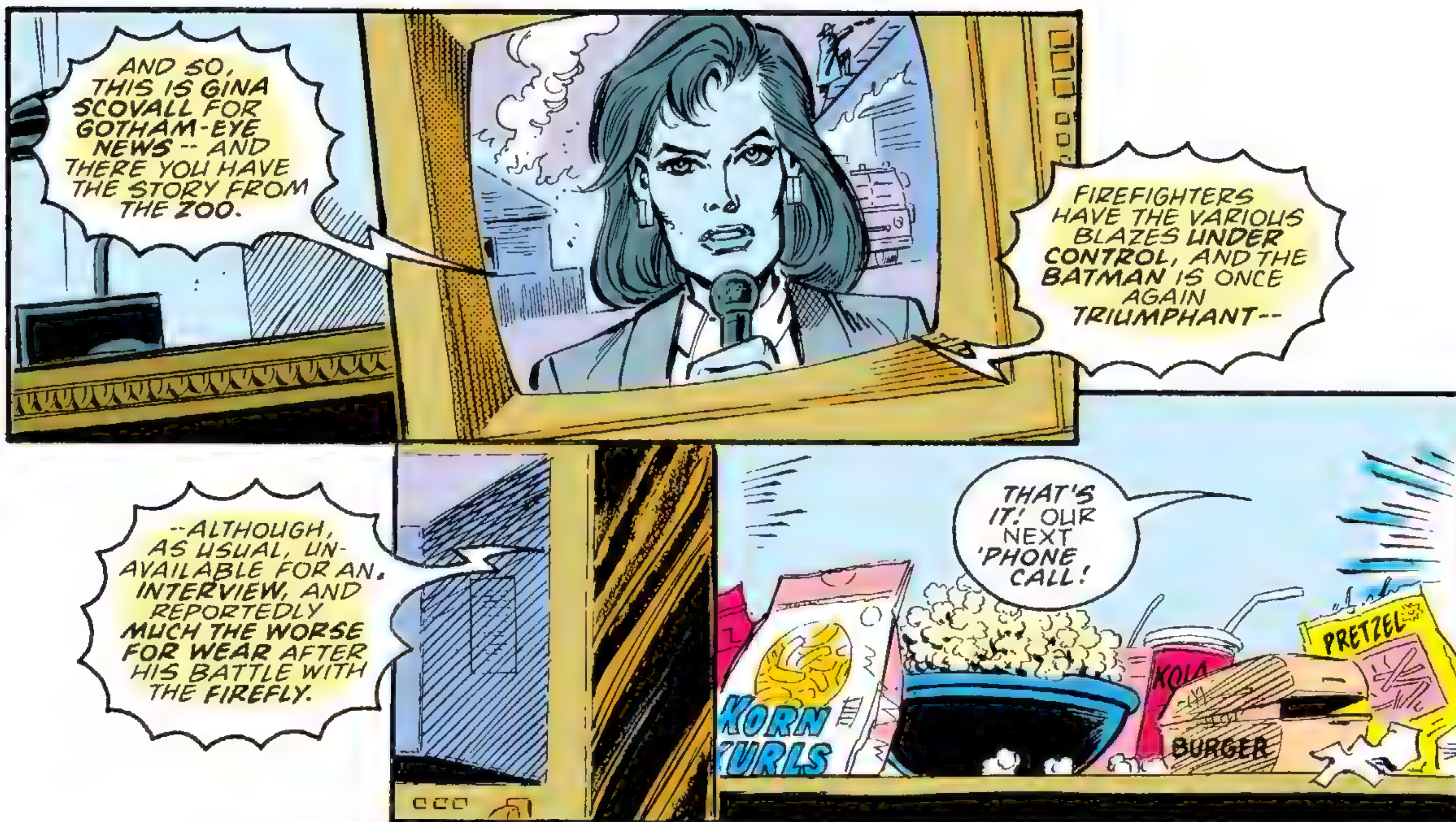
... BUT I'M NOT DEAD YET...

... AND THE MEDIA VULTURES CAN FEED ON SOME COLDER CARCASS.

BATMAN  
CREATED BY  
**BOB KANE,**

**DOUG MOENCH** • **JIM APARO**  
WRITER PENCILLER  
**JOSEF RUBINSTEIN**  
INKER  
**ADRIENNE ROY** • **RICHARD STARKINGS**  
COLORIST LETTERER  
**JORDAN B. GORFINKEL** • **DENNIS O'NEIL**  
ASSISTANT EDITOR EDITOR







BLT THE CITY, YOU STRAW-STUFFED SIMPLETON, IS HIS -- AND ONCE WE TAKE HIM OUT, GOTHAM BECOMES OURS!



BESIDES, WE'VE GOT TO DO IT, FOR THE NOVELTY ALONE -- I'VE NEVER KILLED BATS BEFORE...



GOT HIS SNOT-SNIVELING PARTNER ONCE...

... ALTHOUGH HE SEEMS TO BE BACK SOMEHOW...

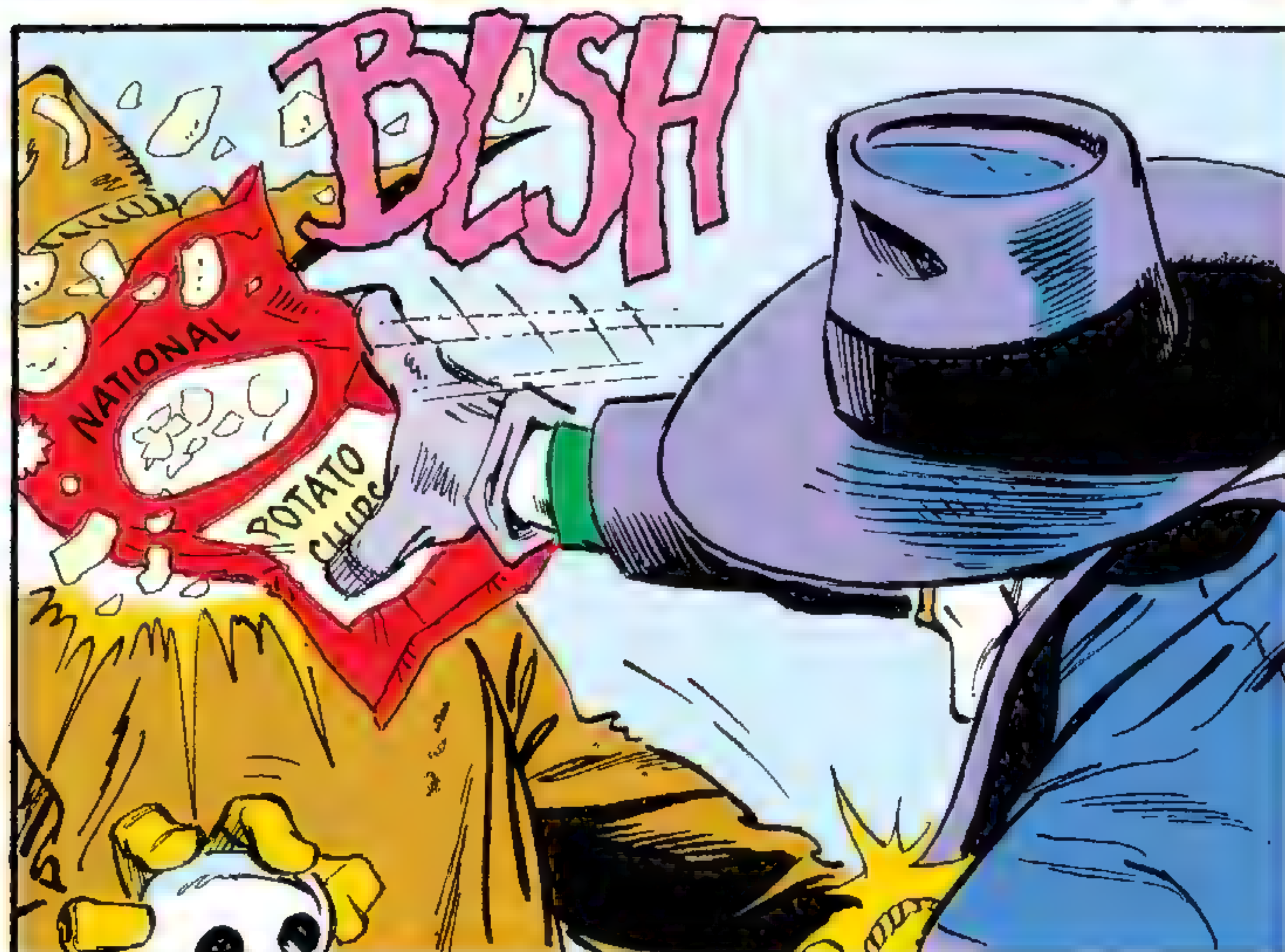


SNAP OUT OF IT, YOU CLOWN!

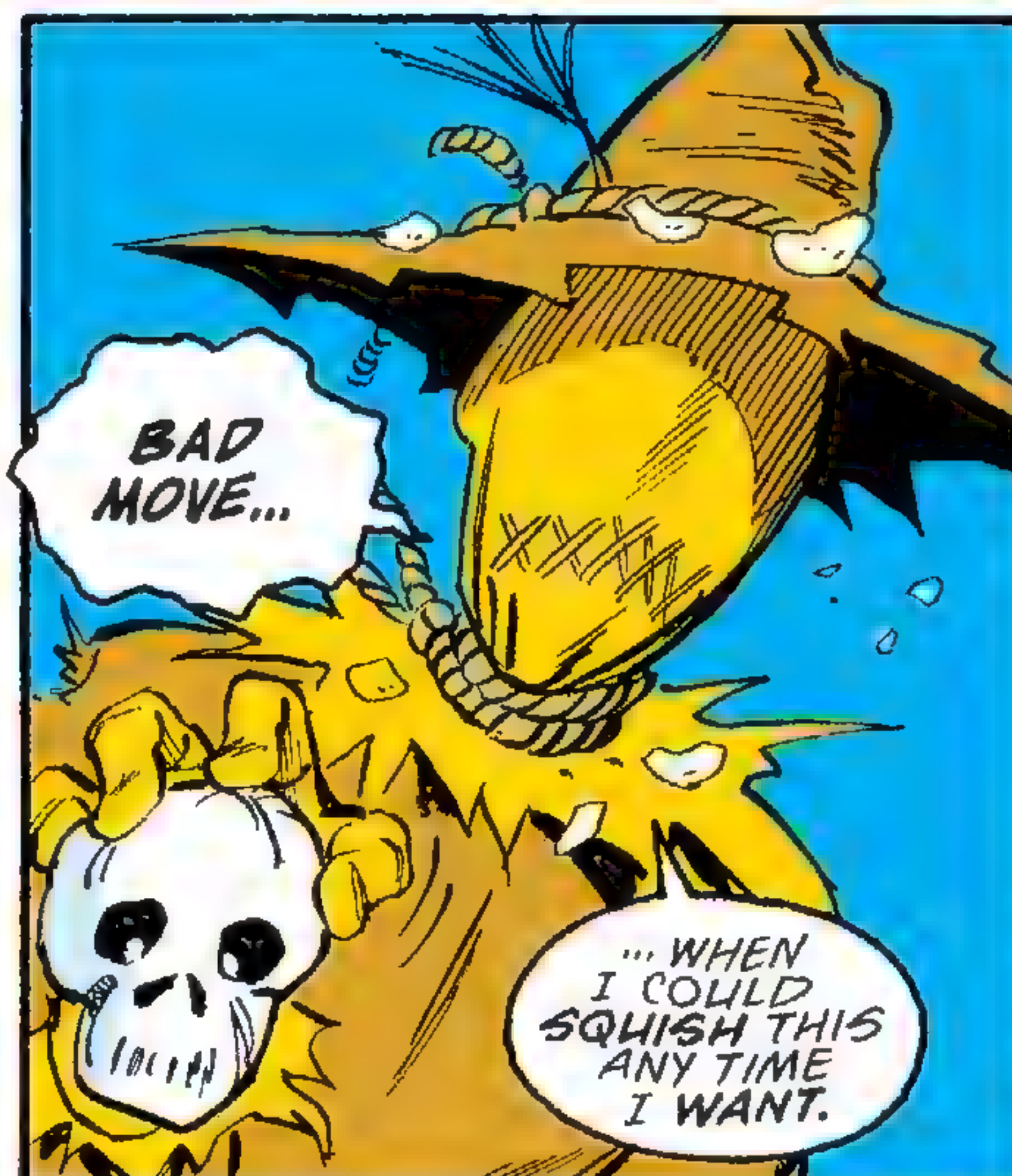
I DECIDE HOW WE USE THIS FEAR-GAS, AND I SAID NO WAY!

Oh...

YOU DID, DID YOU?



BLSH



BAD MOVE...

... WHEN I COULD SQUISH THIS ANY TIME I WANT.

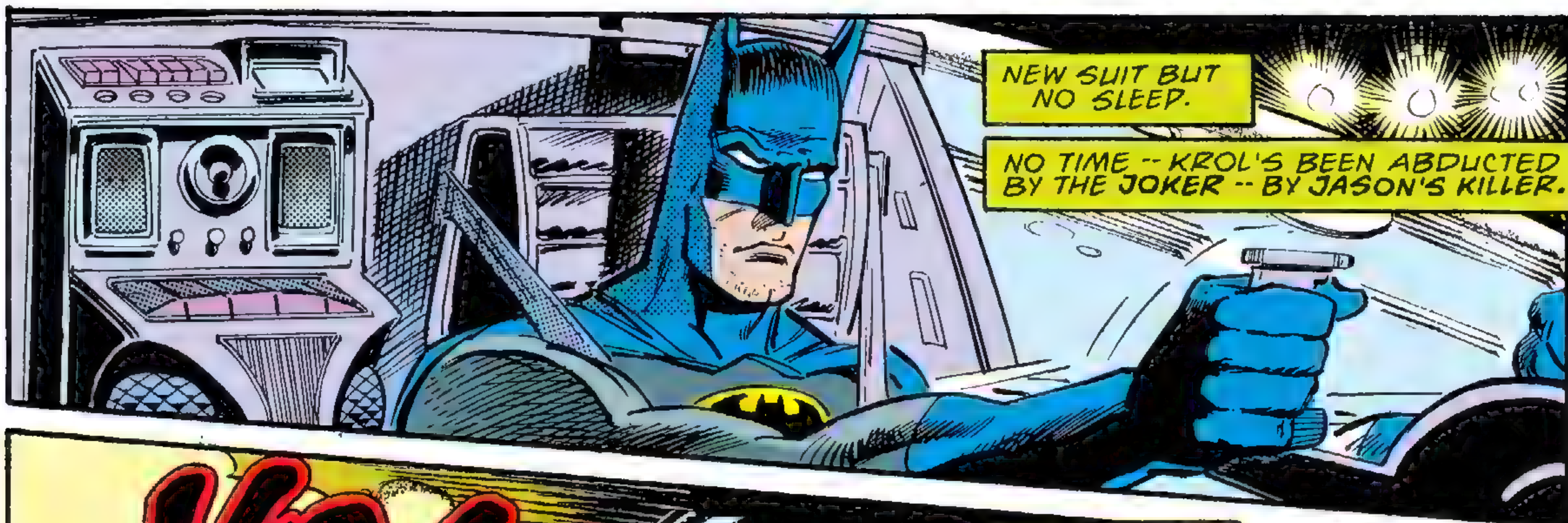


YOUR FEAR-GAS?!

I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO IT!

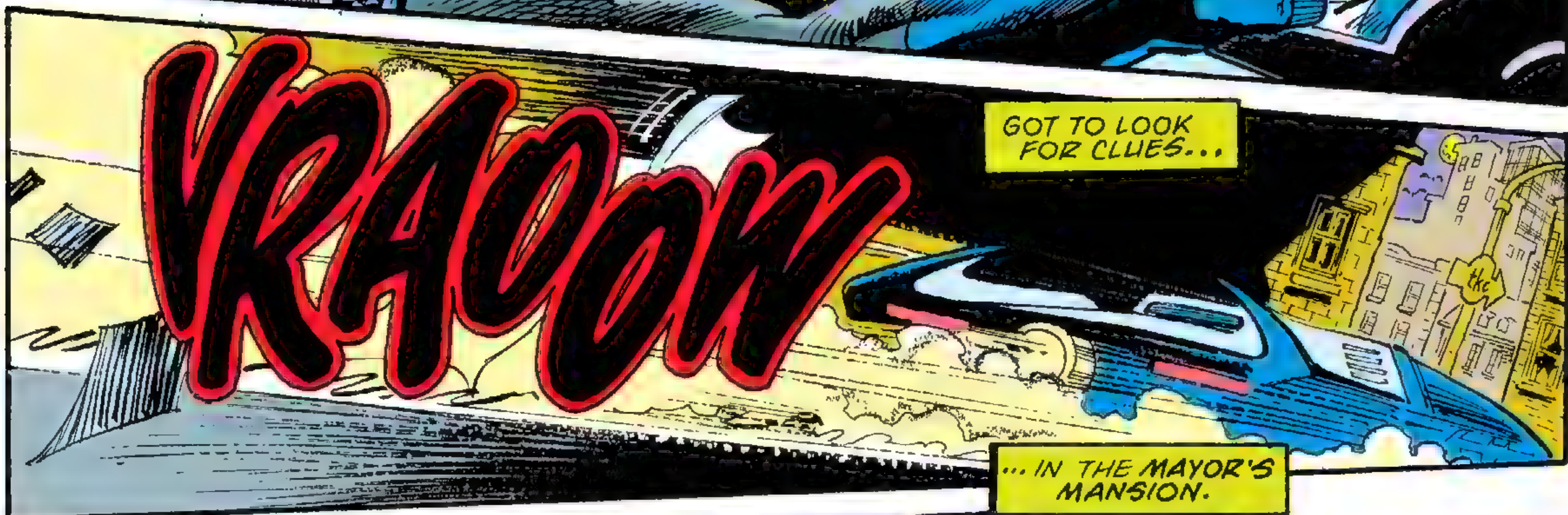
HAHAHA





NEW SUIT BUT  
NO SLEEP.

NO TIME -- KROL'S BEEN ABDUCTED  
BY THE JOKER -- BY JASON'S KILLER.



GOT TO LOOK  
FOR CLUES...

... IN THE MAYOR'S  
MANSION.



YOU... YOU  
WANT ME TO  
J-JUST GO IN  
THERE? I MEAN,  
AFTER WHAT  
HAPPENED AT  
THE AMUSE-  
MENT  
PARK?

DO I DUST  
FOR FINGERPRINTS  
BEFORE OR AFTER  
I GET BLOWN TO  
RED MIST?

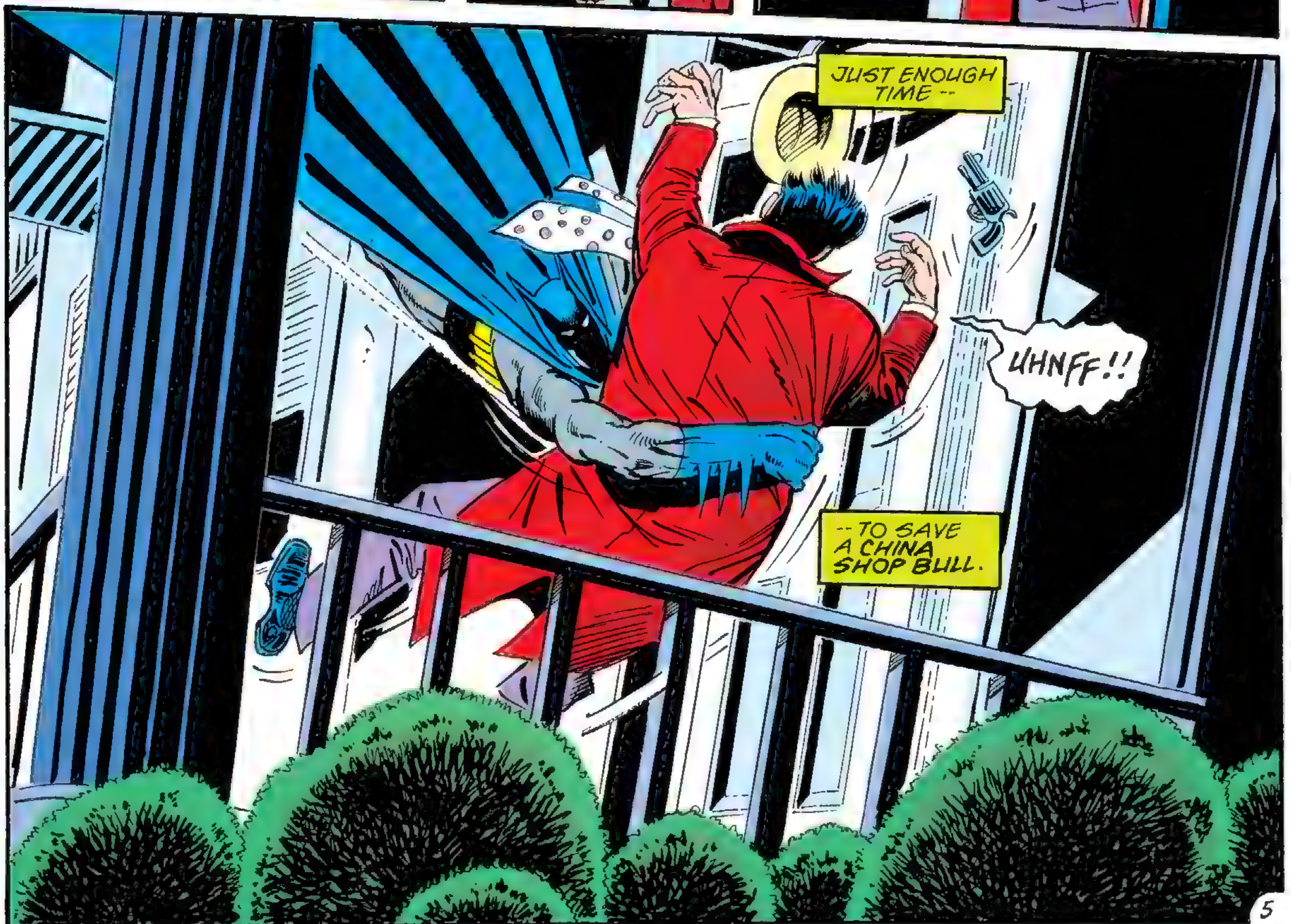
MONTOYA,  
YOU CAN STAND  
HERE AN' BASK  
IN THE GLOW O'  
THESE HEARTS  
O' FIRE --

-- OR  
YOU CAN  
COVER  
ME.

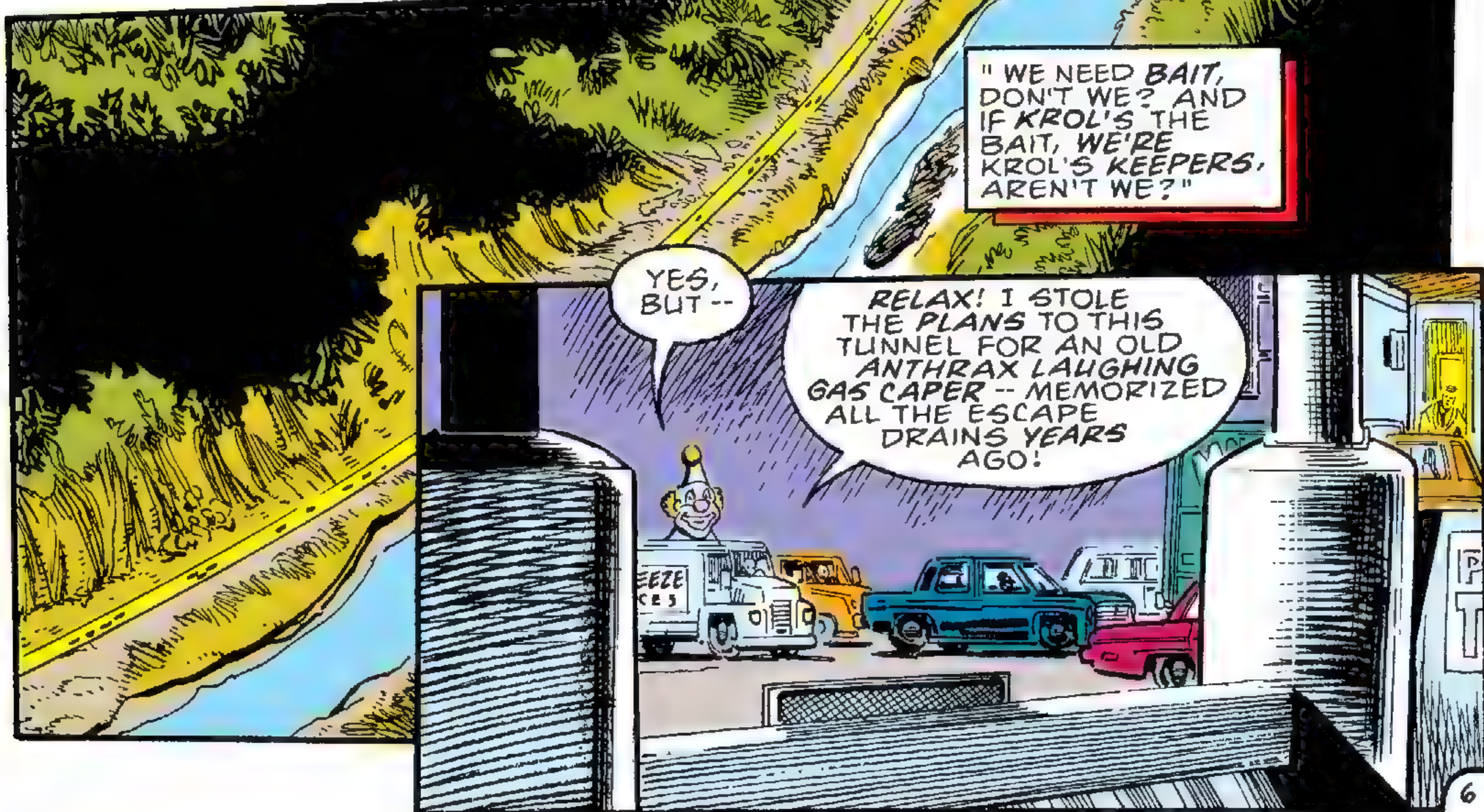
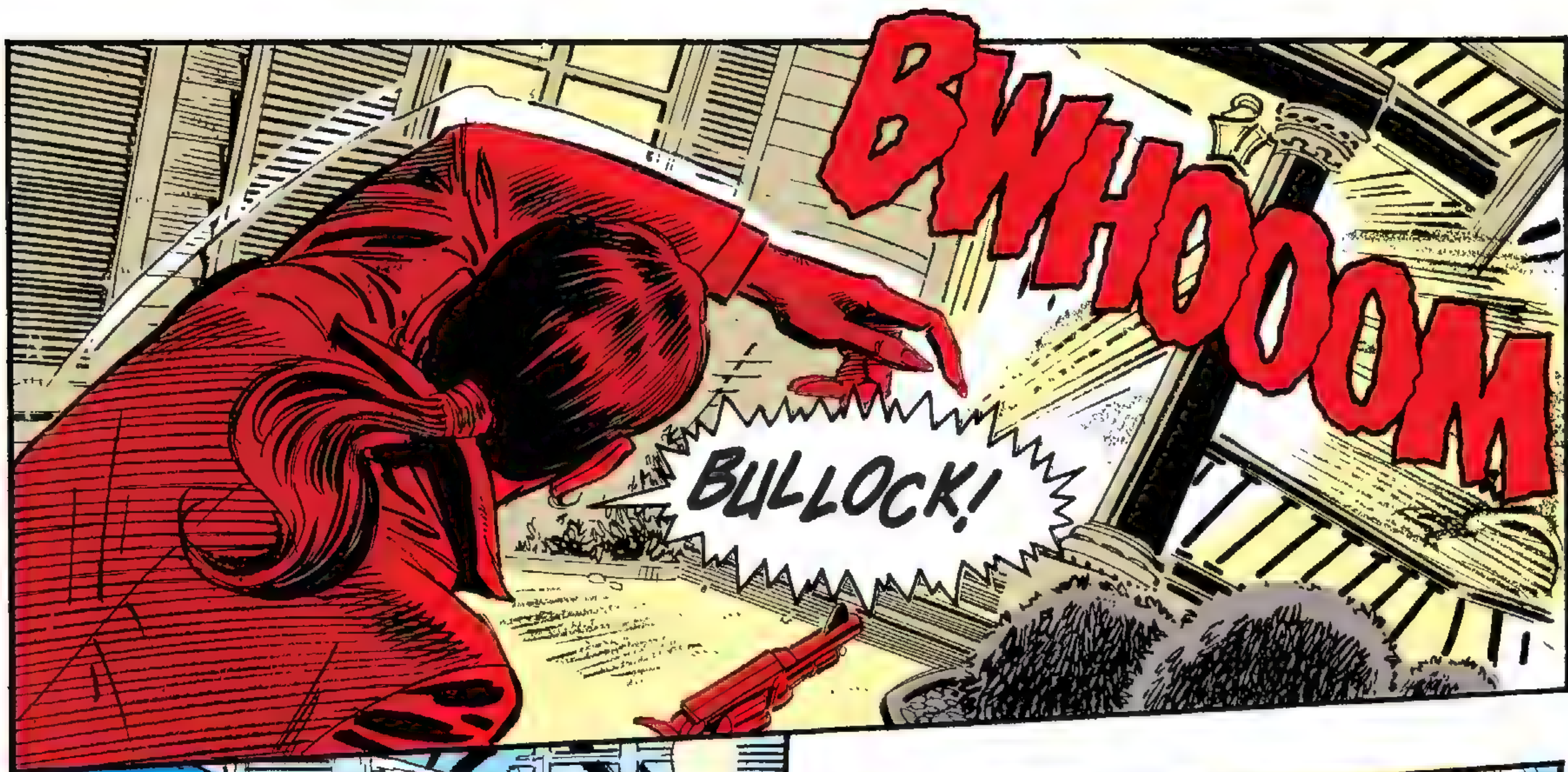
NO  
TIME TO  
WAIT ON  
THE BOMB  
SQUAD.

I'M  
GOIN'  
IN.

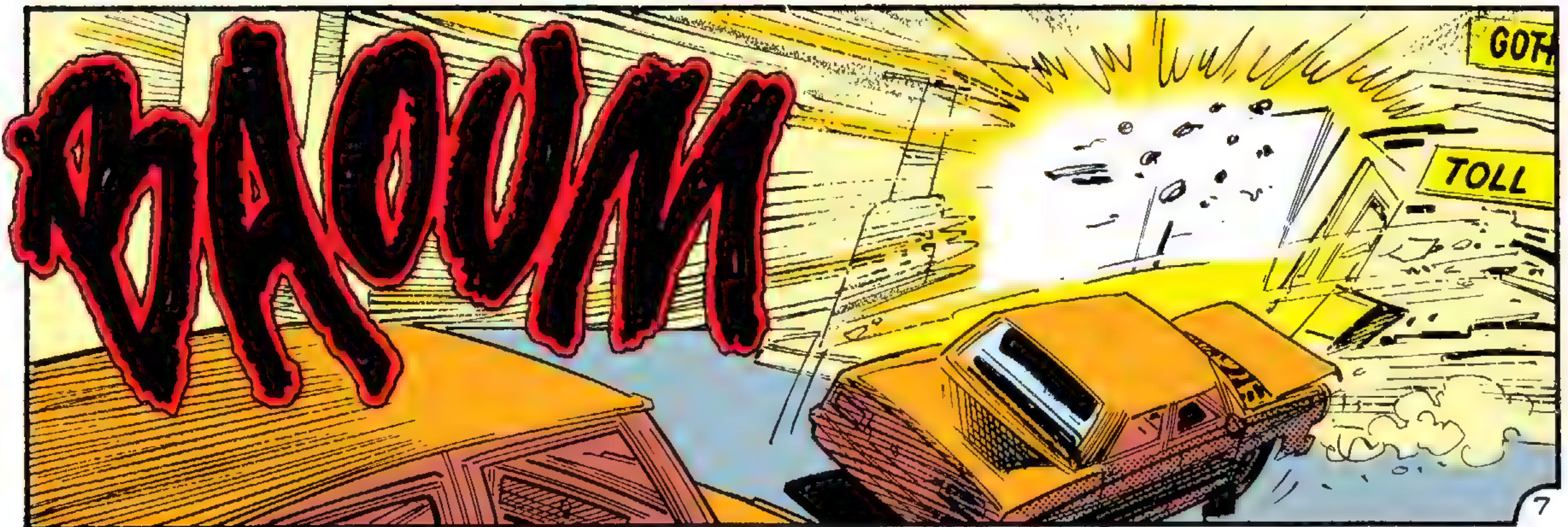
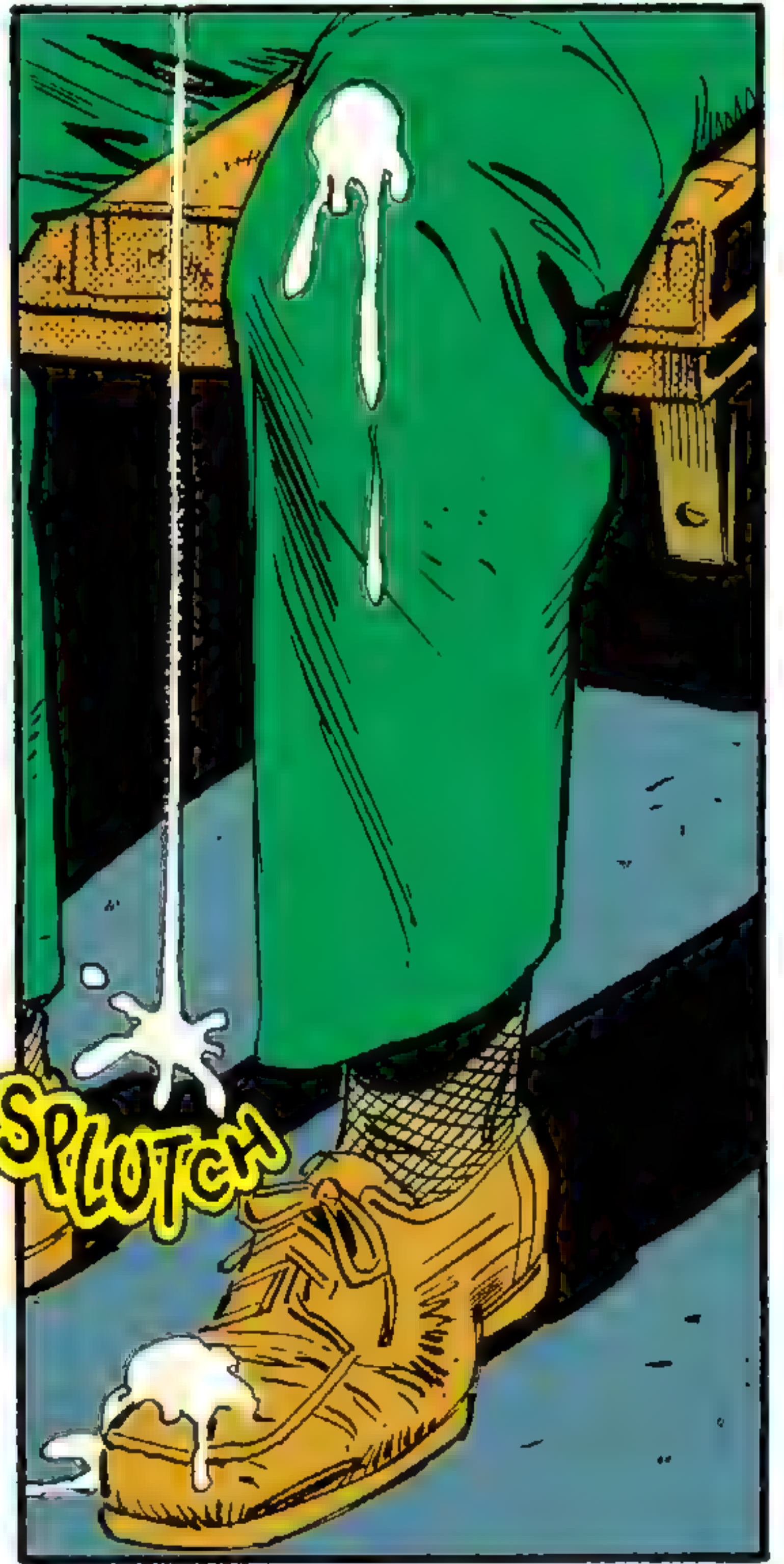
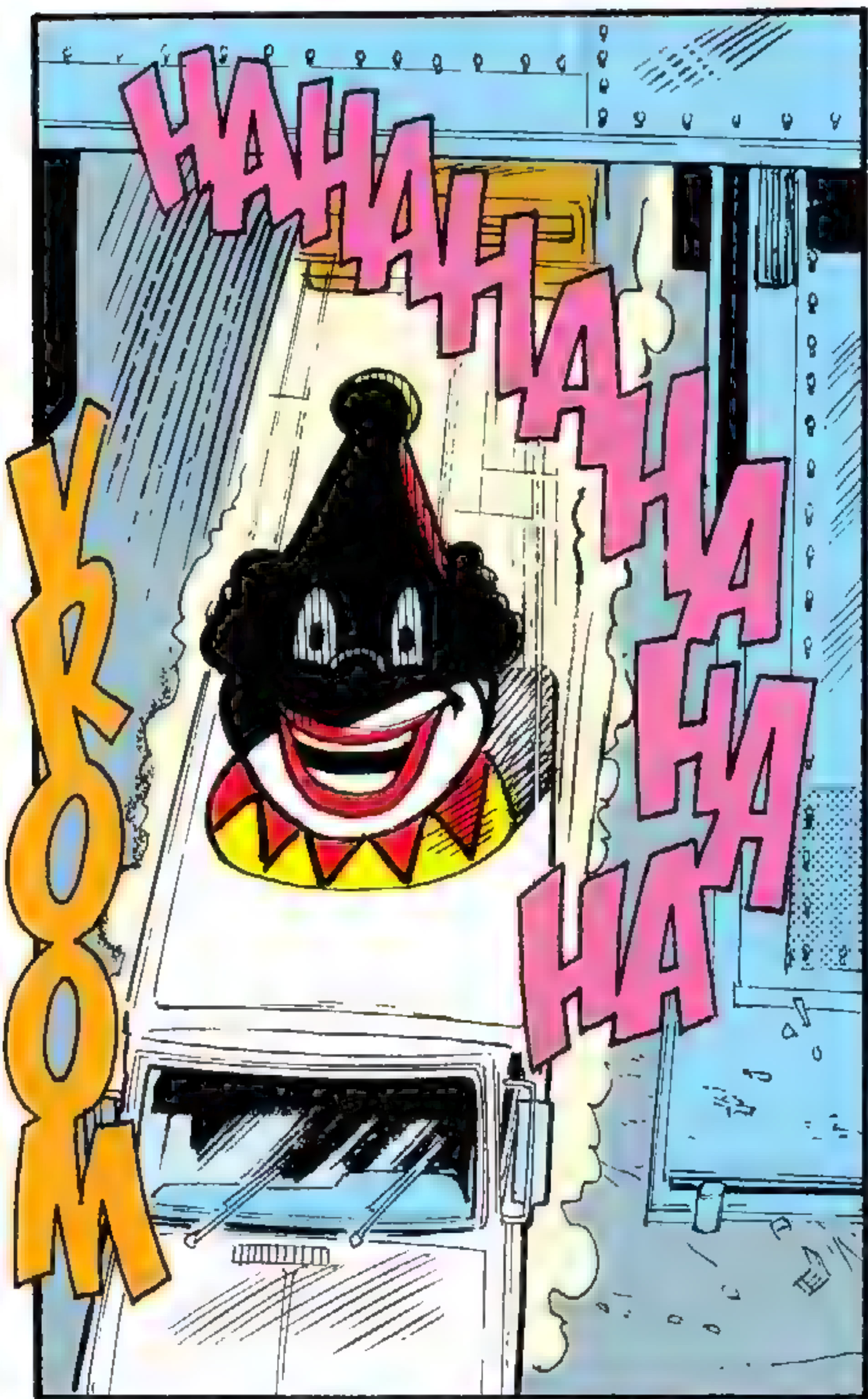
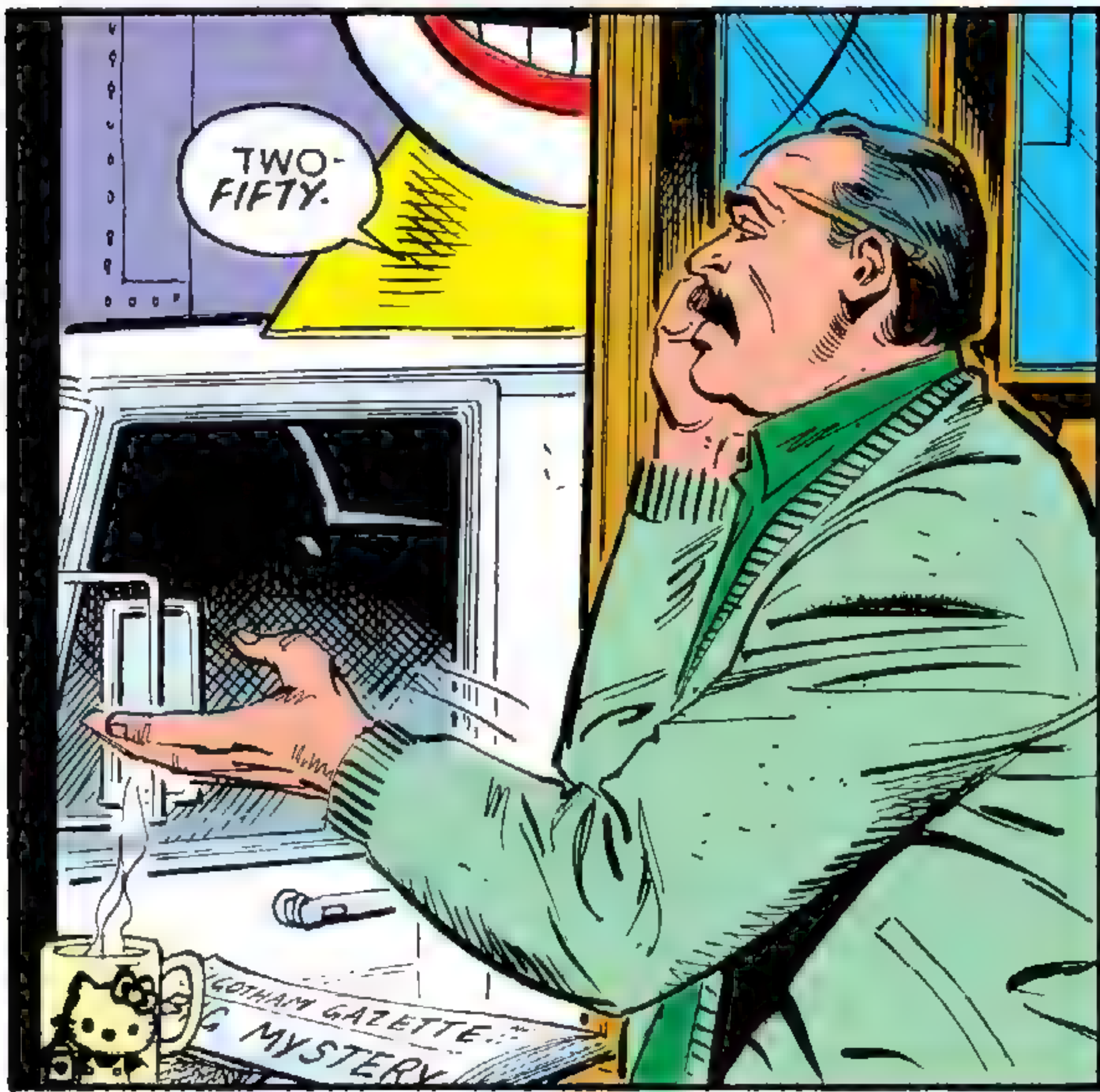




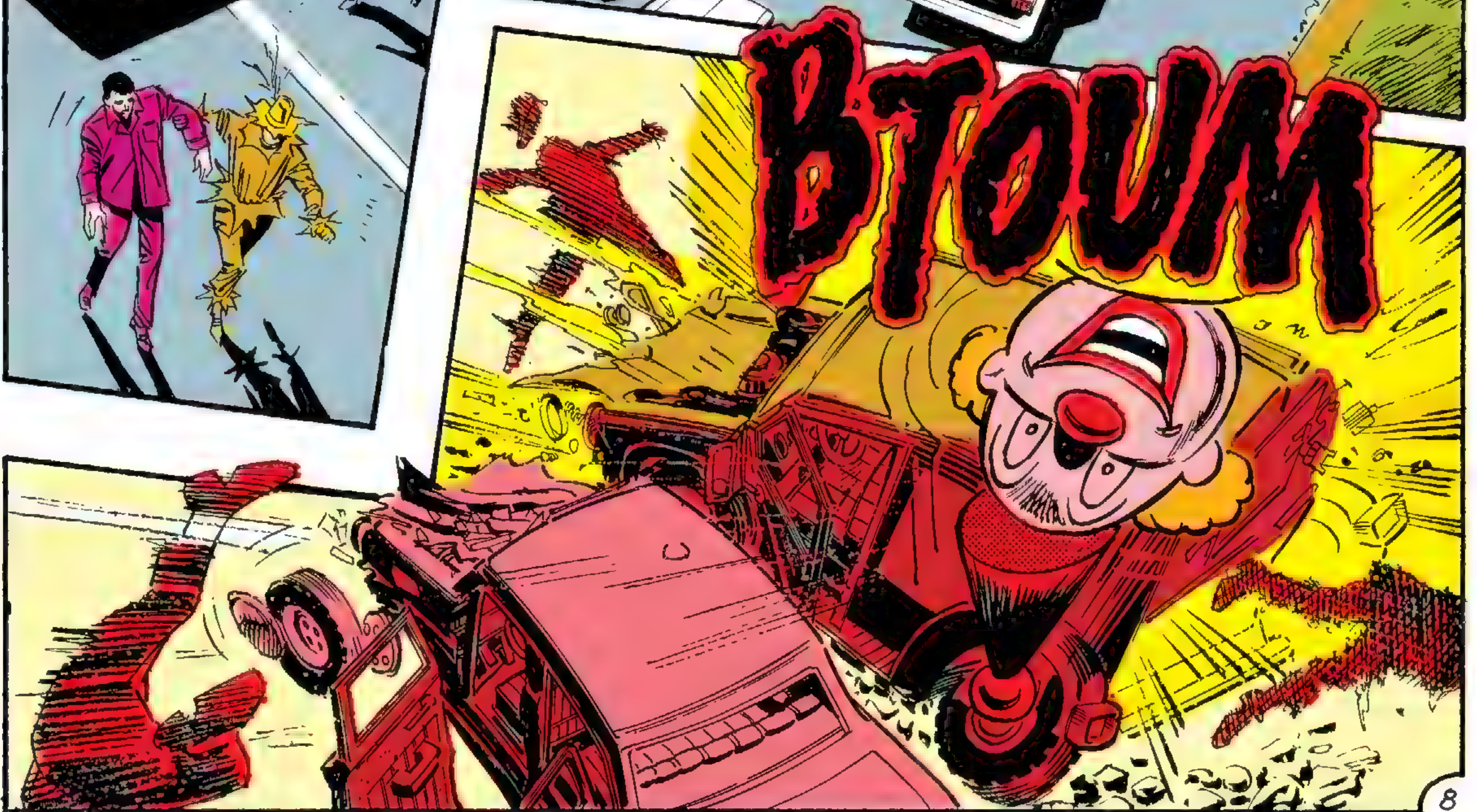
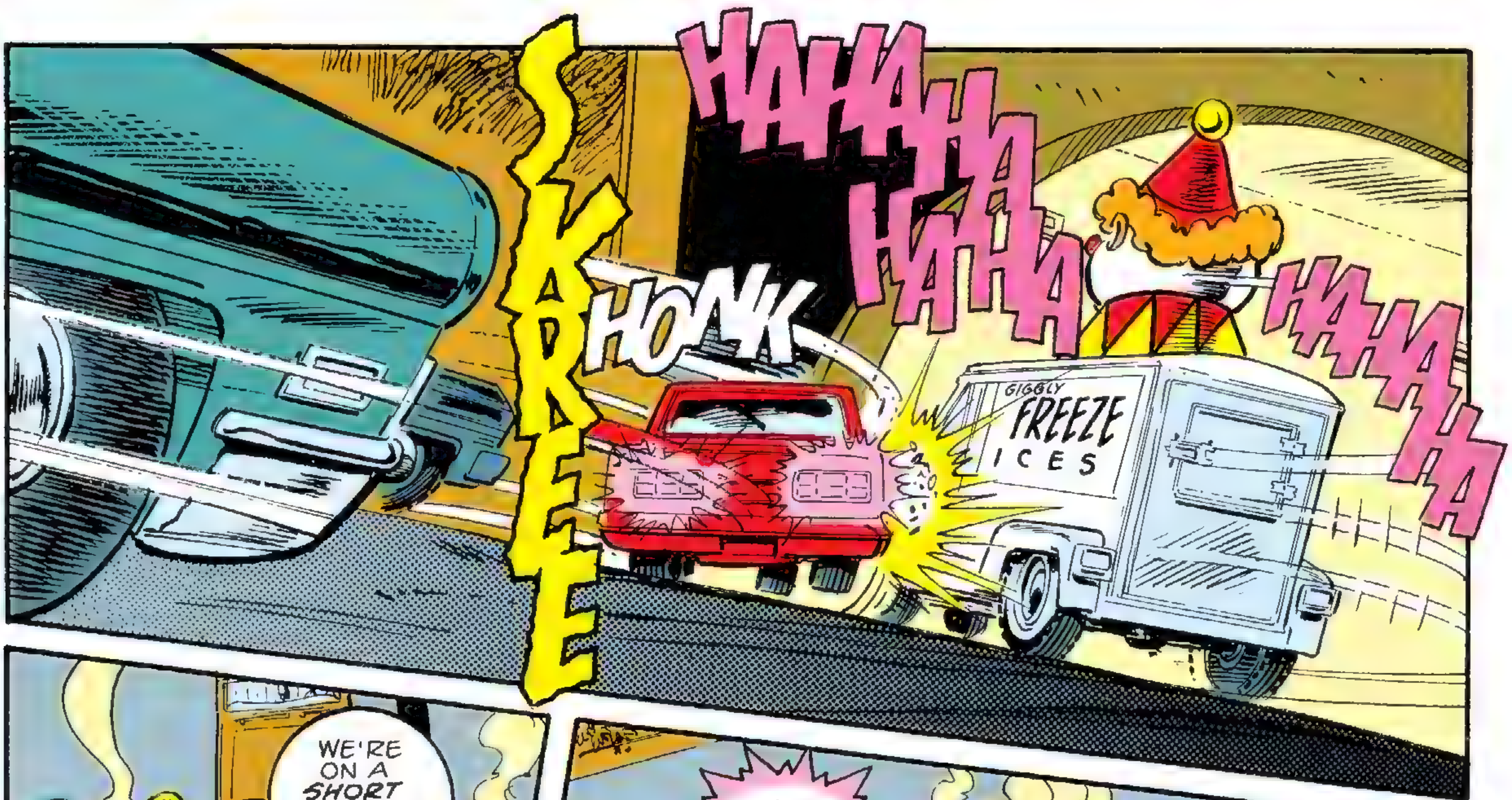




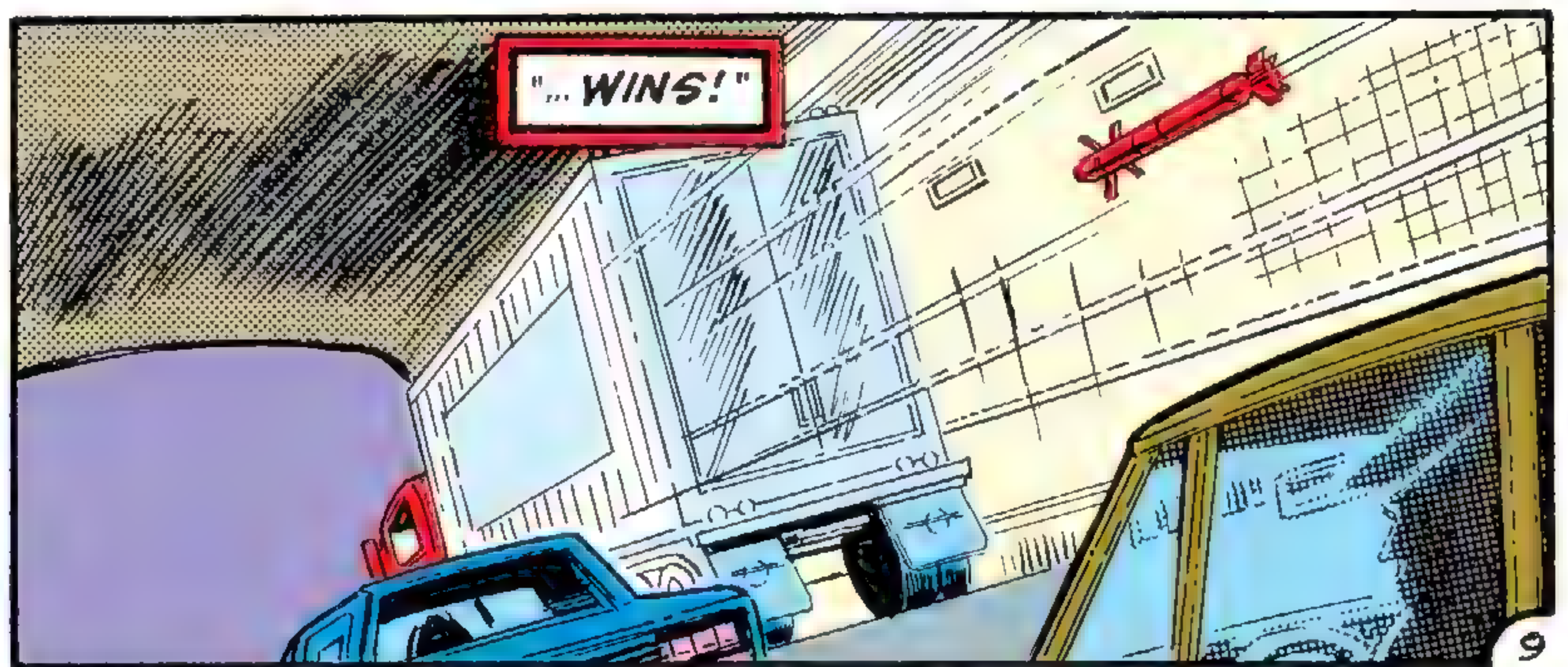
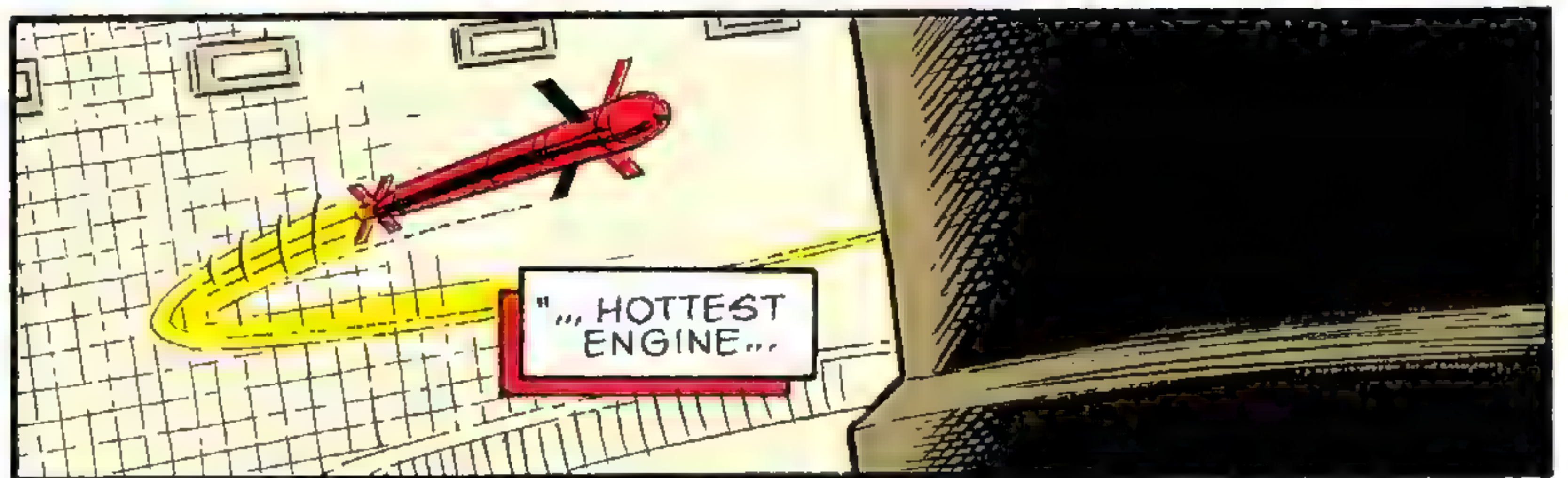
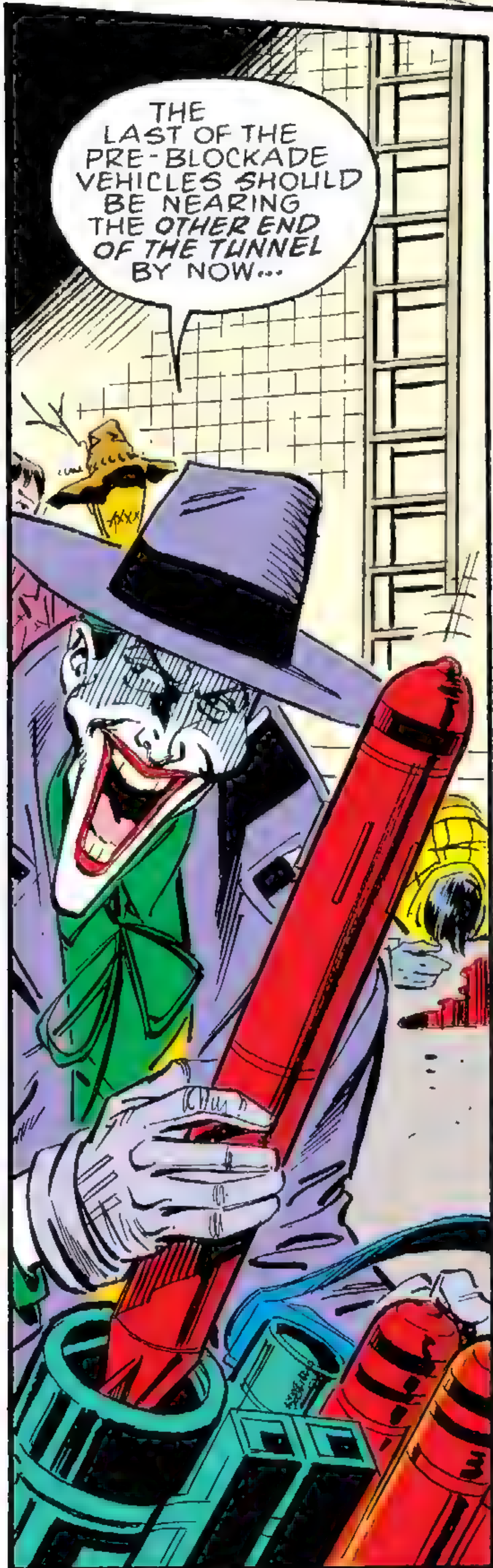
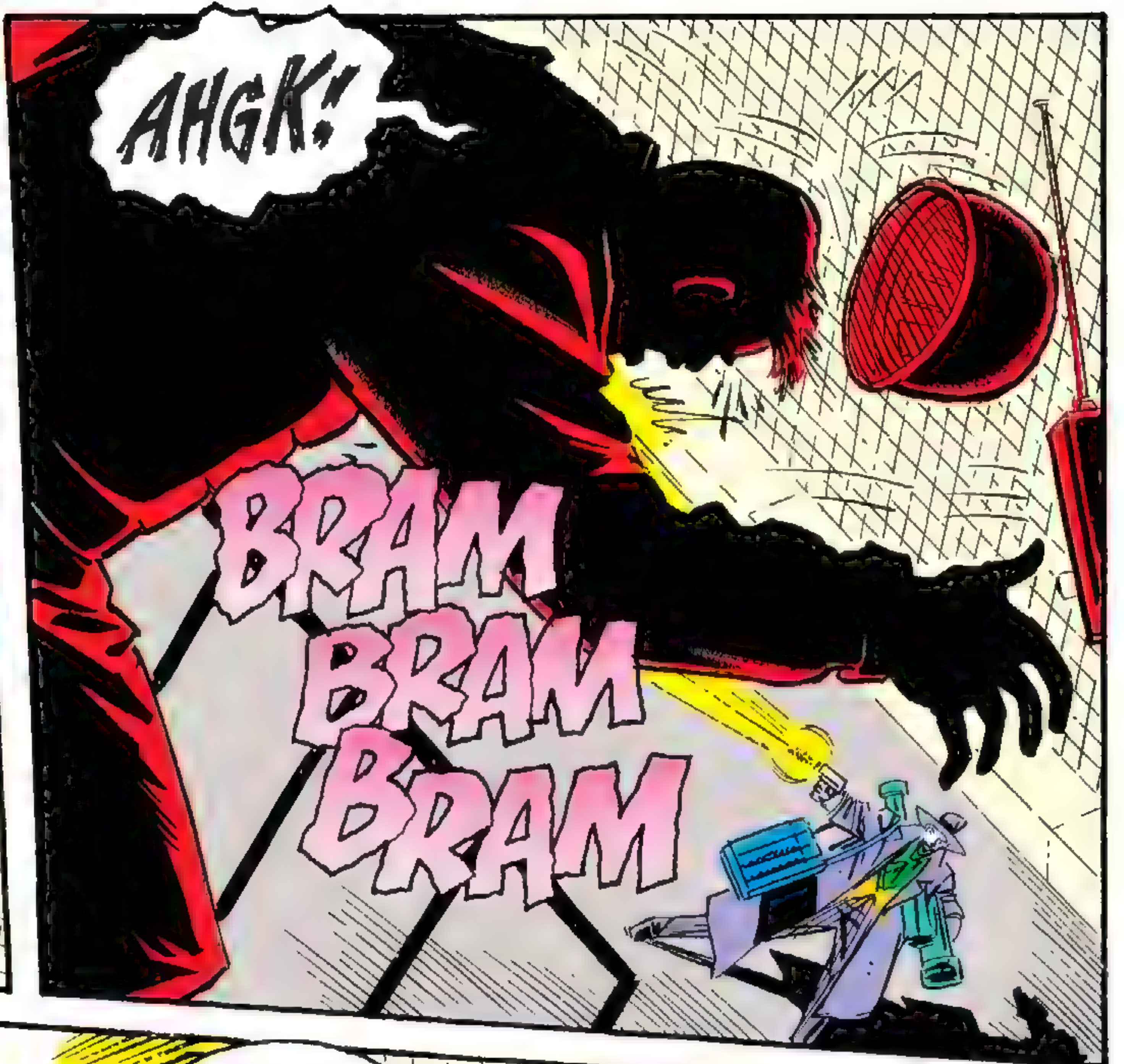
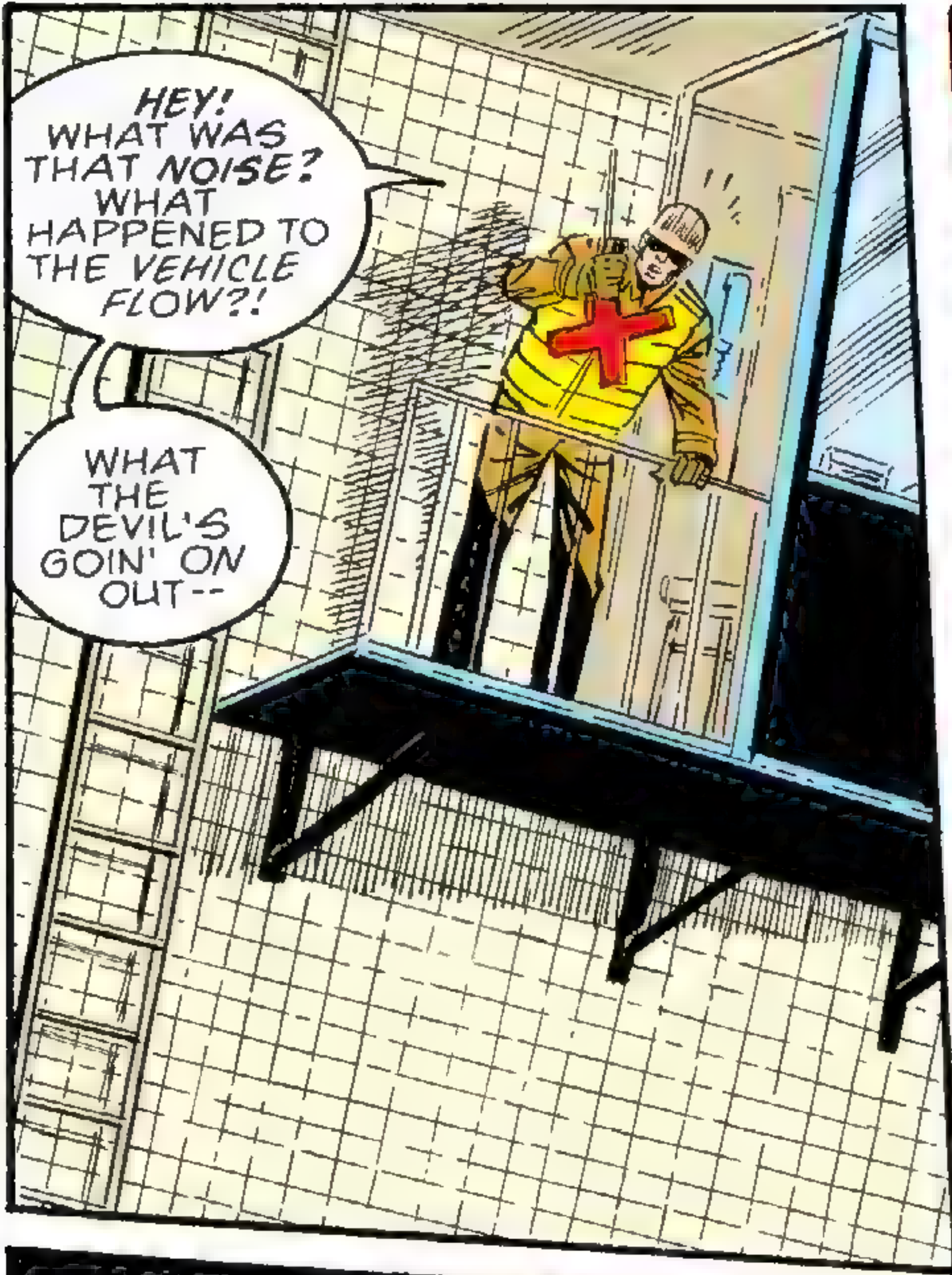




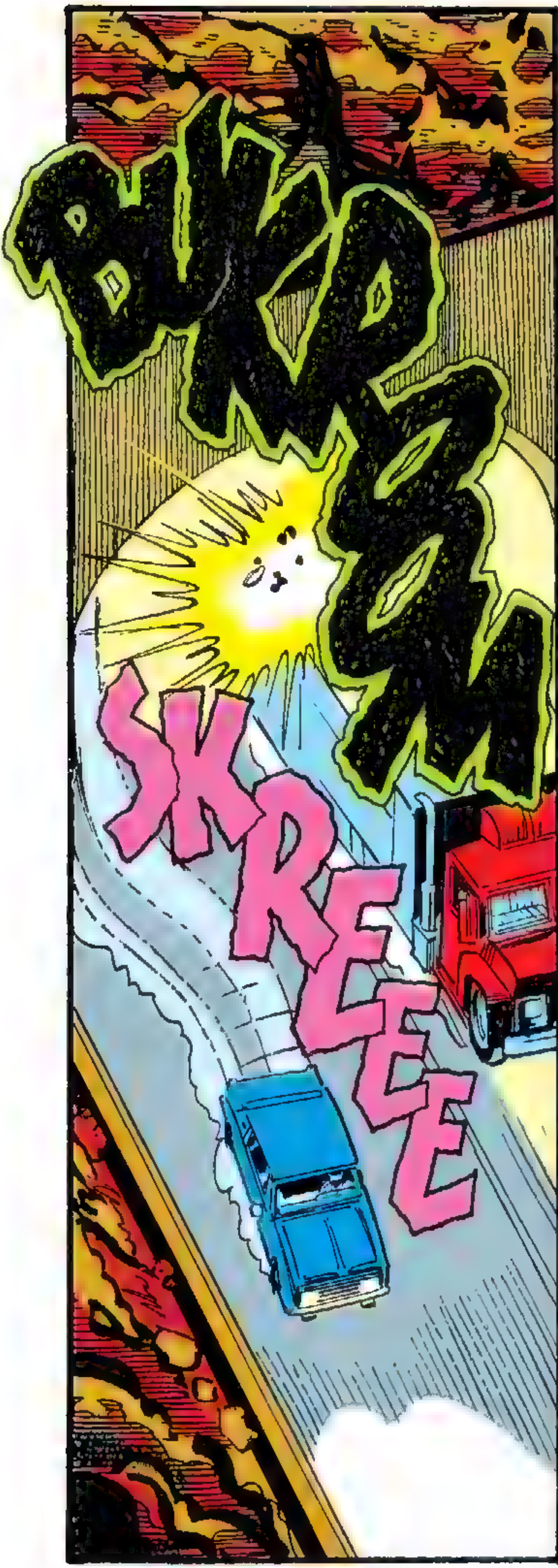












GOING SMOOTHLY  
SO FAR, JOKER...  
BUT ARE YOU  
SURE YOU KNOW  
A GOOD  
ESCAPE  
ROUTE?

HEY,  
DO  
COBRAS  
KISS  
CARE-  
FULLY?

C-COBRAS?!  
N-NO.....



...NO  
MORE Suh-  
SNAKES --  
PLEASE...

THAT'S RIGHT, MISTER  
MAYOR, YOU DON'T  
LIKE SNAKES, DO  
YOU...? ALL THOSE  
VENOM-LOADED  
CURVED FANGS  
AND FLICKERING  
FORKED  
TONGUES...

SHKSH

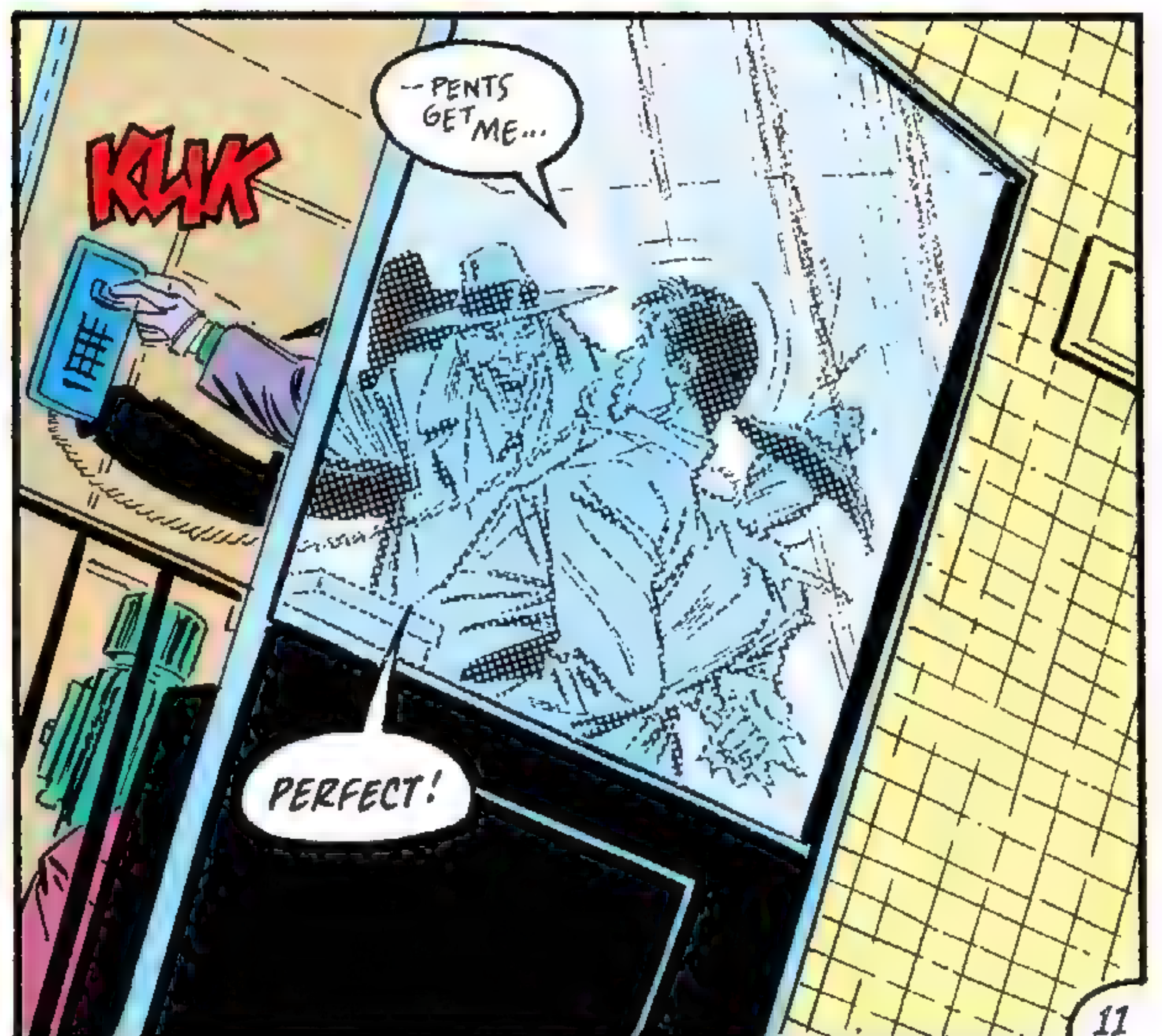
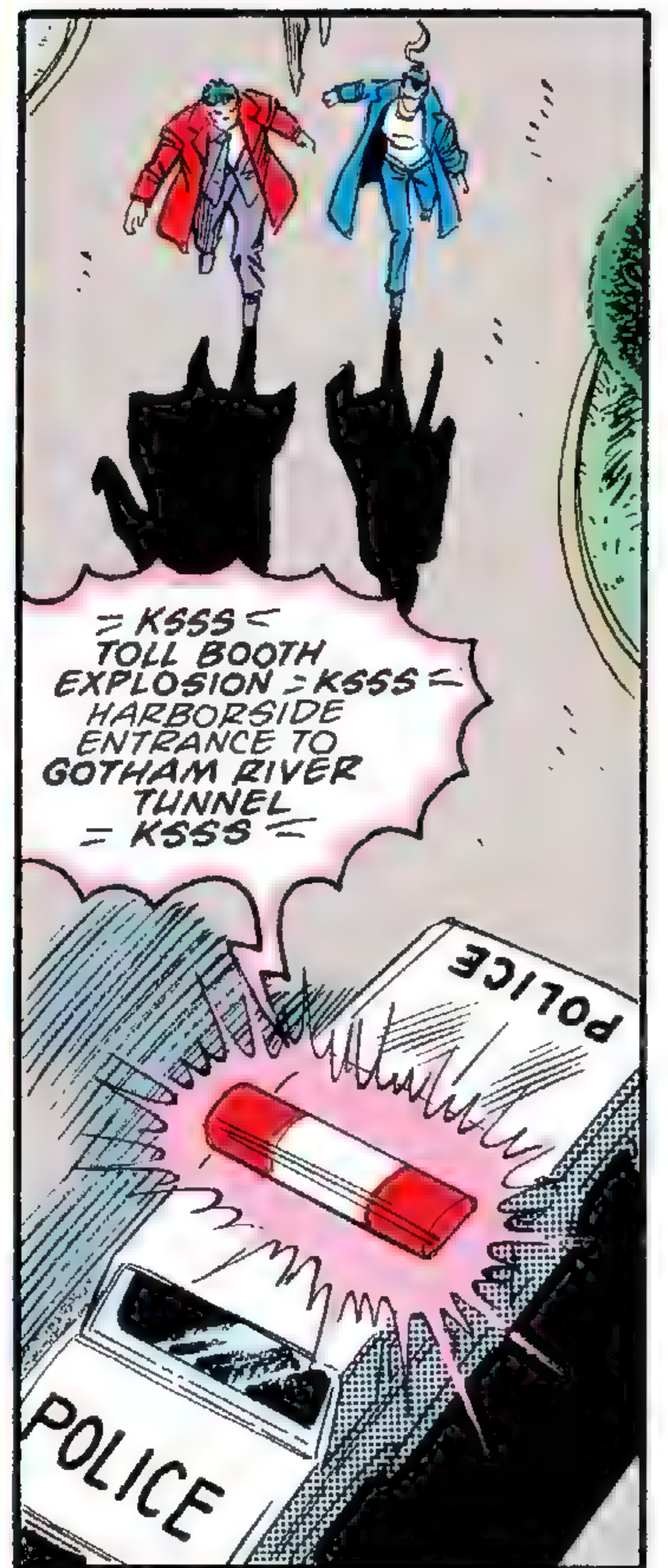
BUT I'M  
AFRAID -- ALTHOUGH NOT  
AS AFRAID AS YOU -- THAT  
THE COBRAS ARE ALREADY  
ON THE MARCH, AND THE  
ONLY WAY FOR YOU TO STOP  
THE SLITHER...



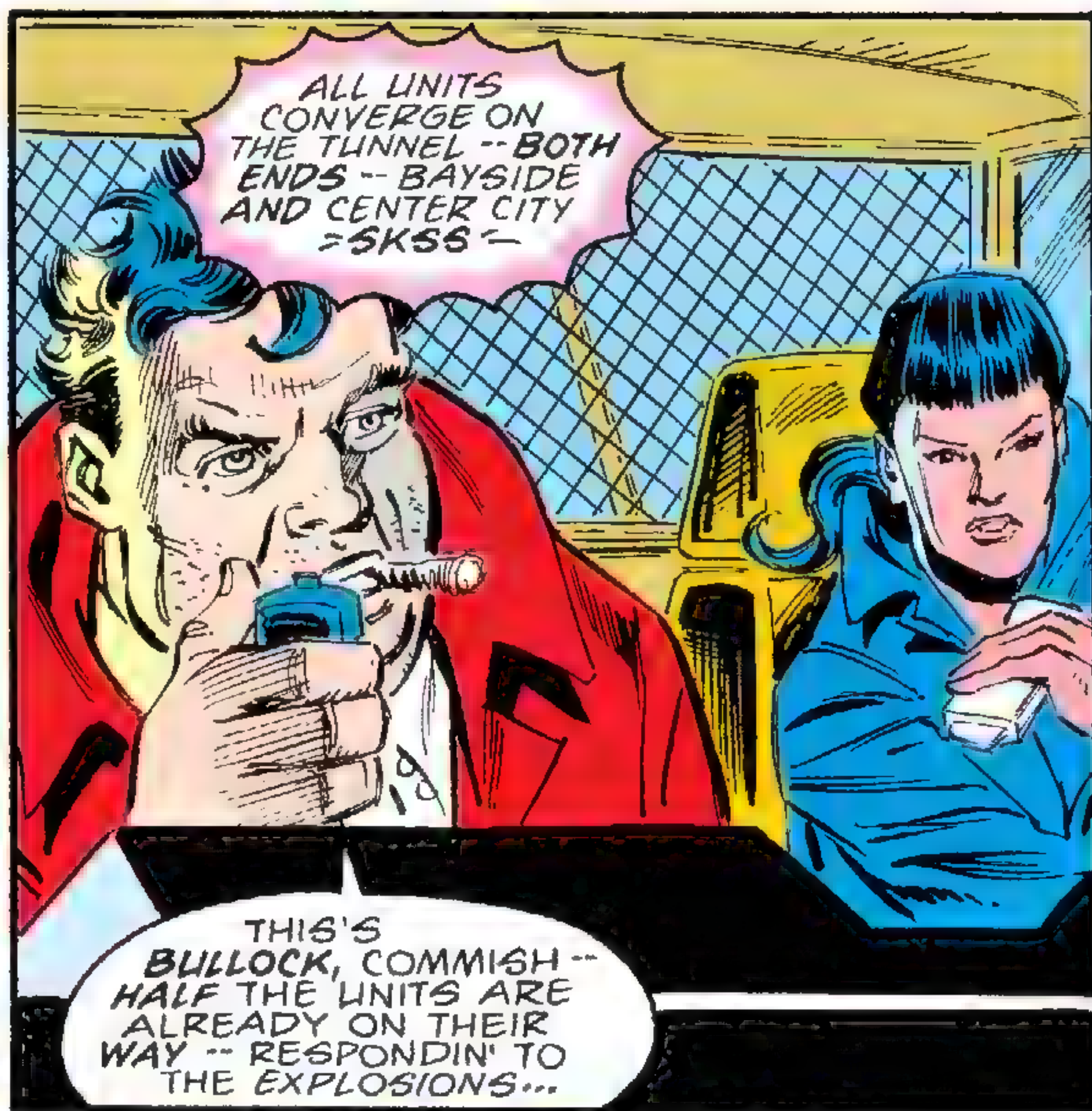
...IS TO REACH OUT  
AND TOUCH THE  
POLICE  
COMMISSIONER.

HAHAHA

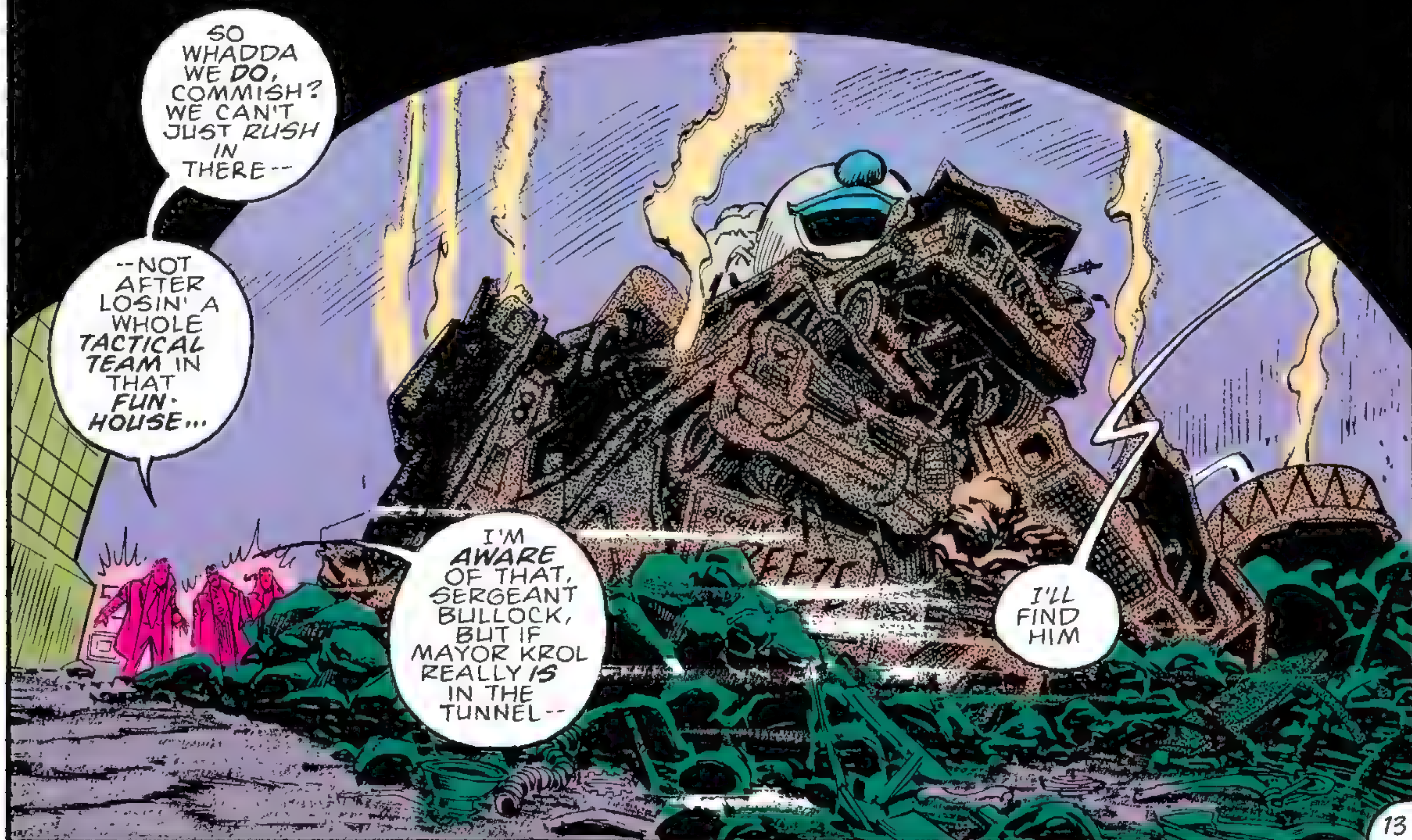
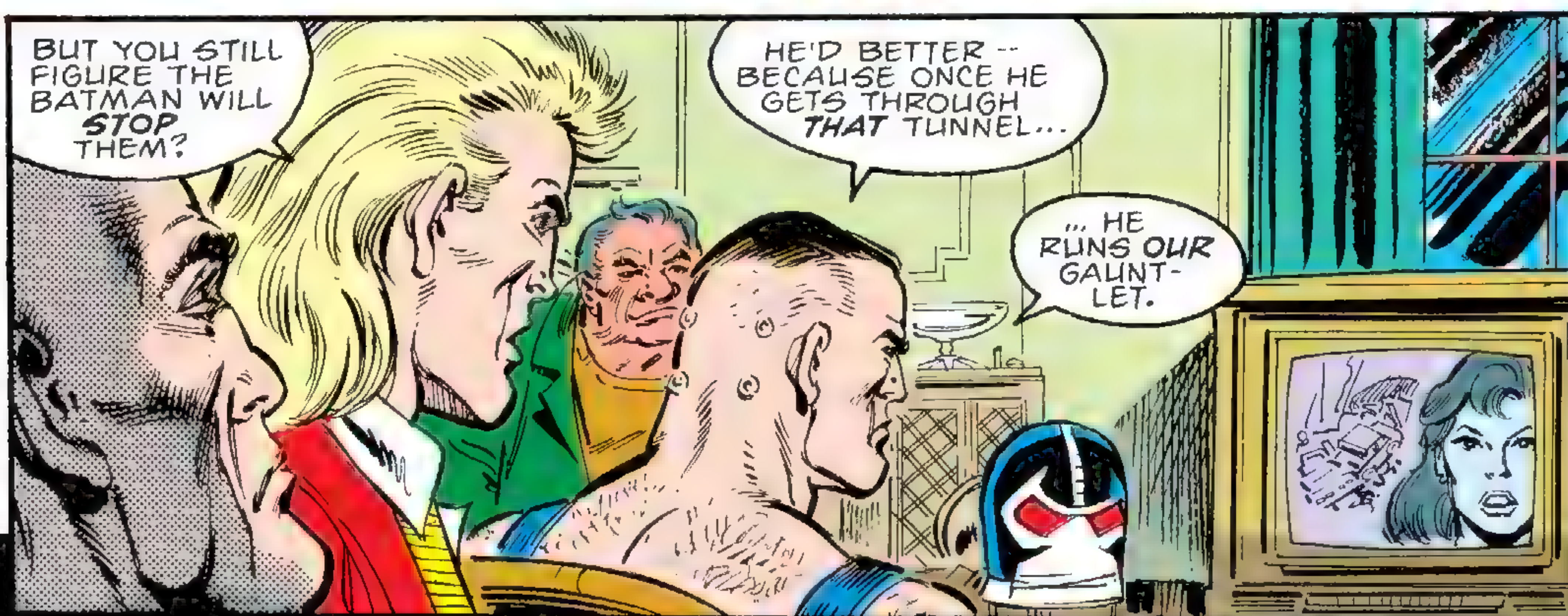




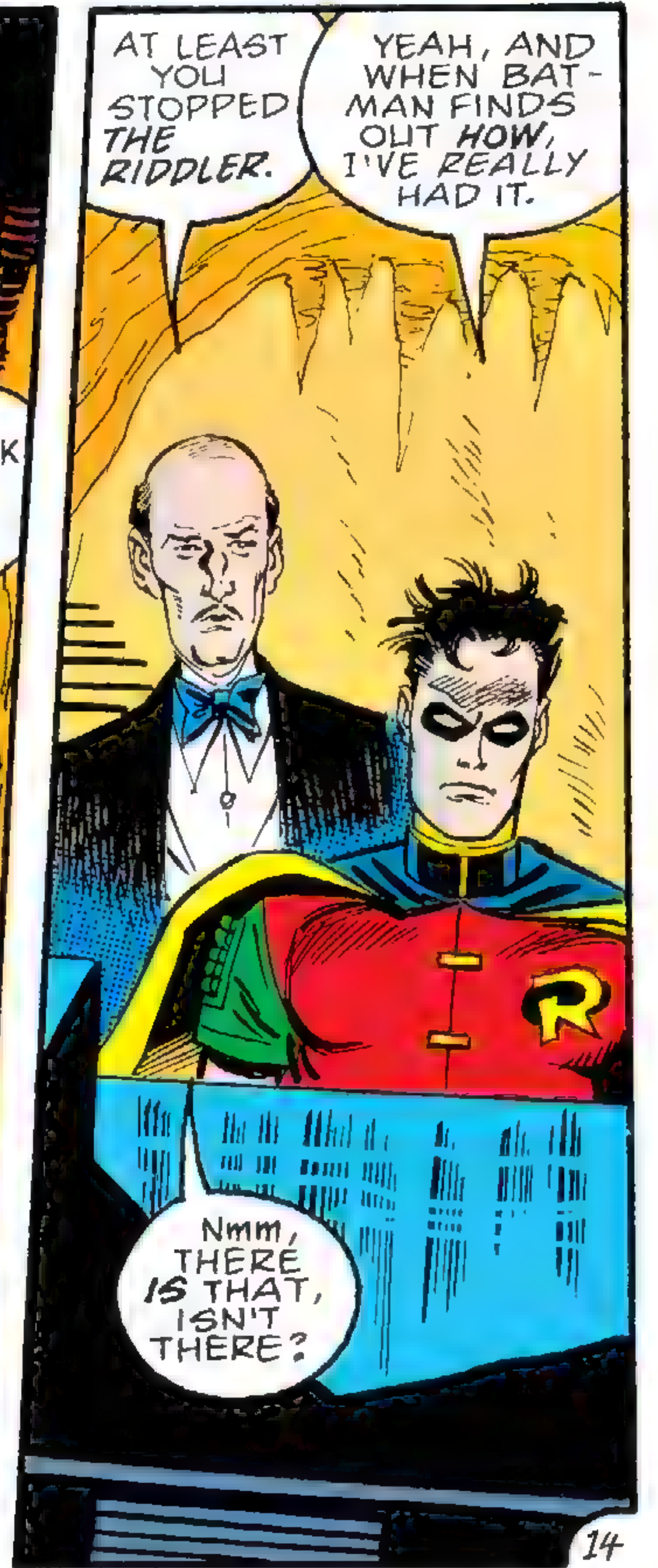
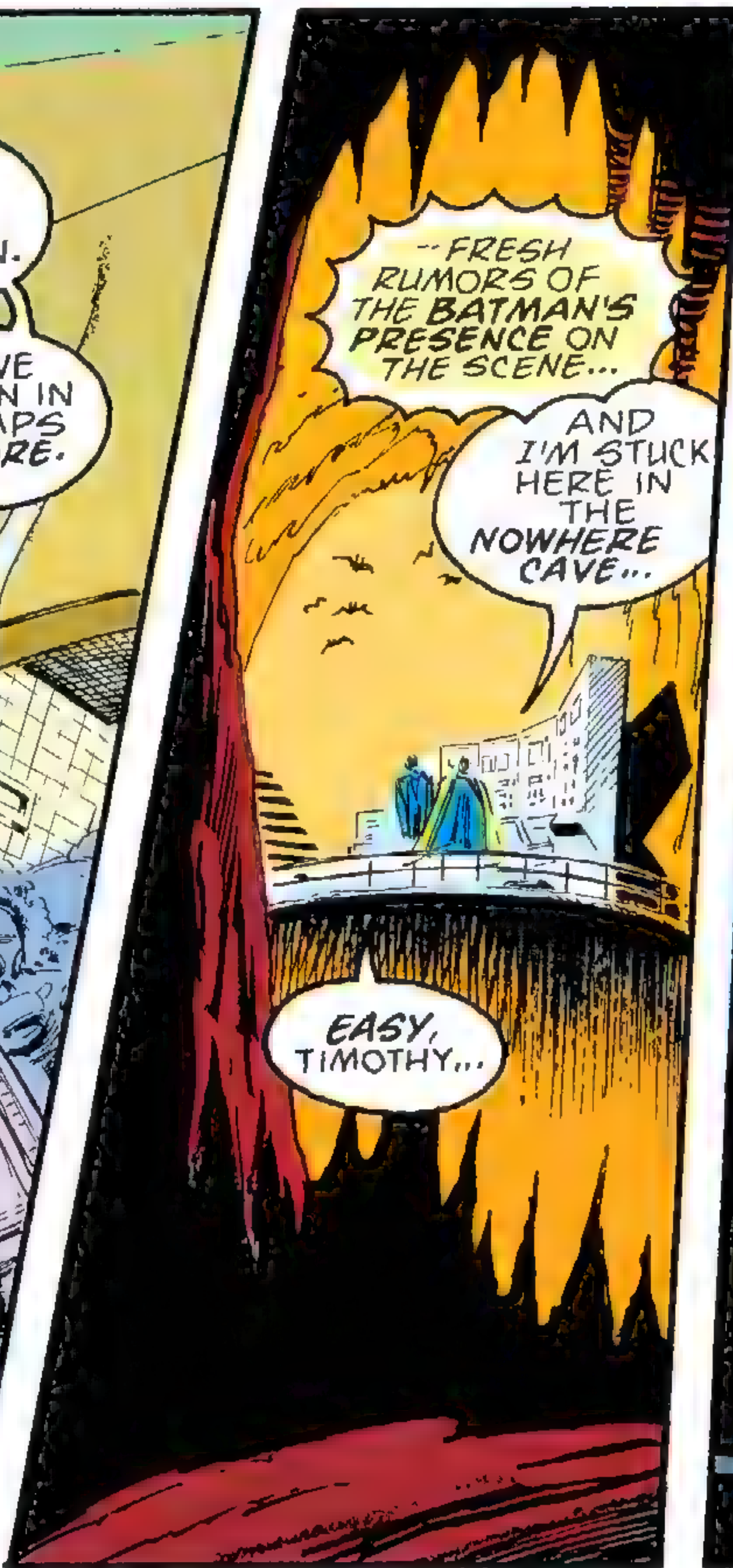
















"... IF THE MASTER EVER RETURNS HOME, THAT IS."

EXHAUSTED... EVERY STEP UPHILL... BUT I CAN'T REST, CAN'T FALTER...



...NOT WITH THE JOKER JUST AHEAD -- AND BEYOND HIM, BANE.

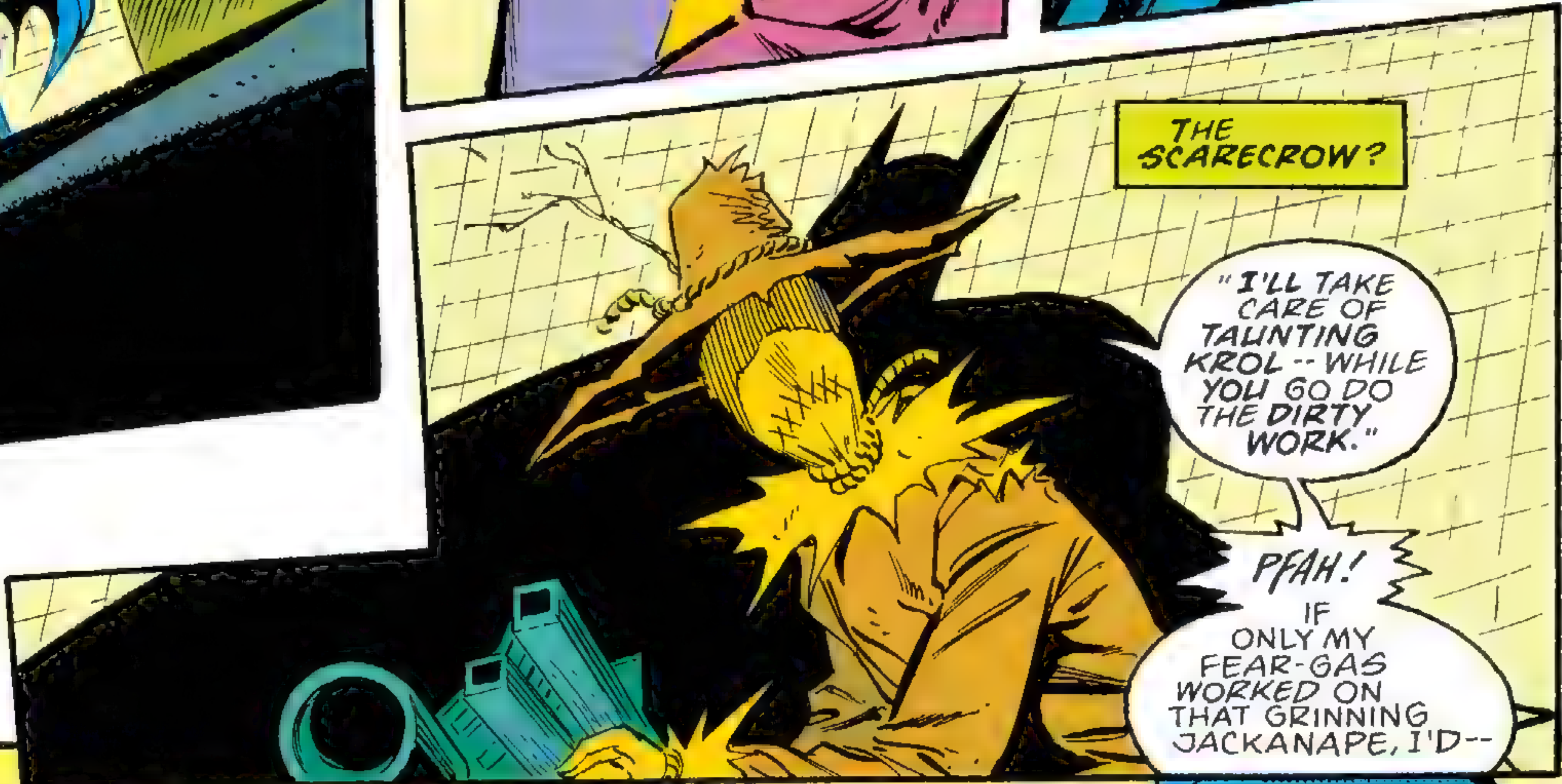
BATS'LL BE HERE SOON, SCARECROW -- GO OUT AND STAND WATCH.

I'LL TAKE CARE OF TAUNTING KROL.



GETTING SPACY NOW... HEAD SWIMMING... HARSH TANG OF BRIMSTONE...

BUT THERE -- JUST UP THE TUNNEL...



THE SCARECROW?

"I'LL TAKE CARE OF TAUNTING KROL -- WHILE YOU GO DO THE DIRTY WORK."

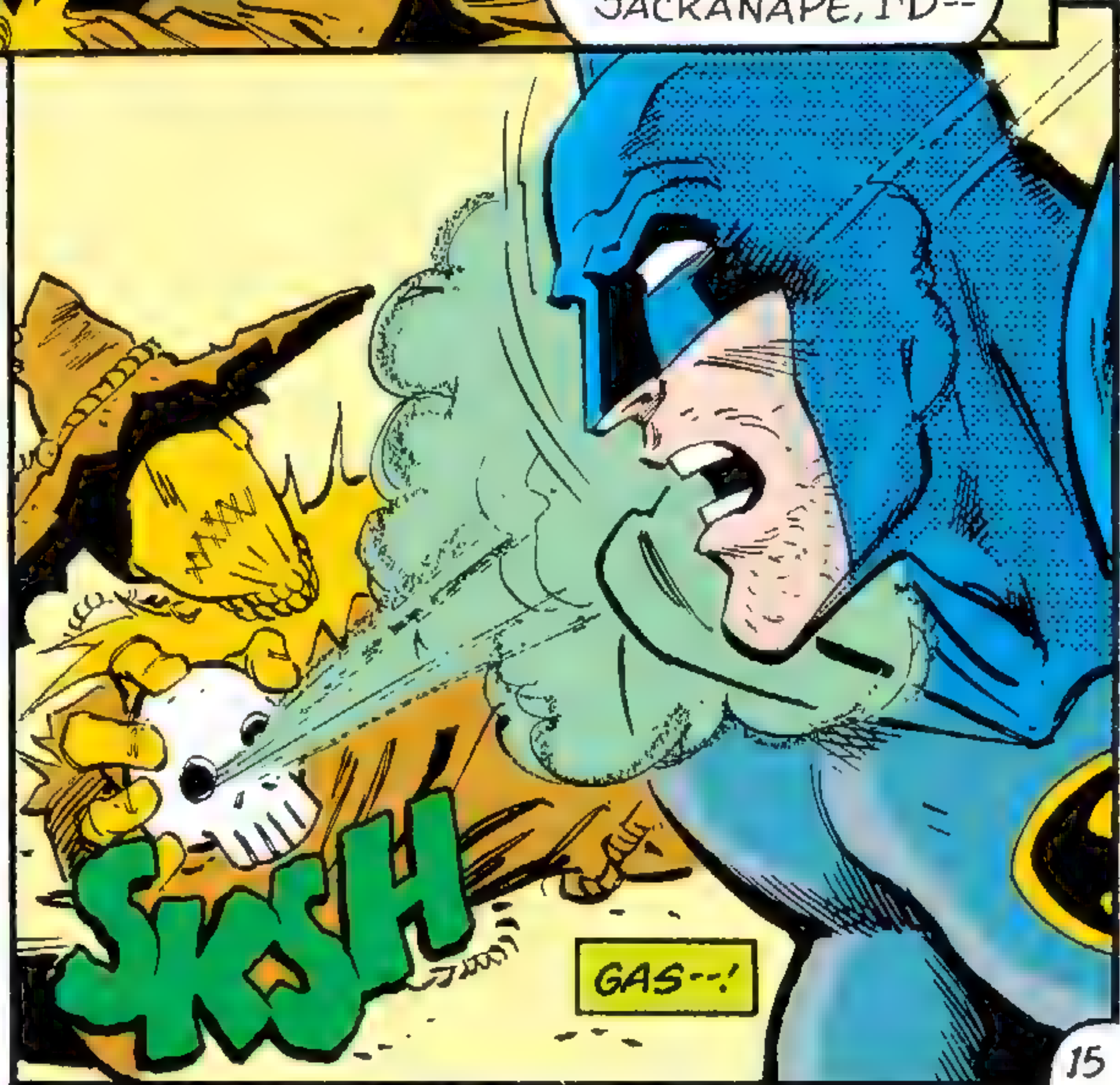
PFAH!

IF ONLY MY FEAR-GAS WORKED ON THAT GRINNING JACKANAPE, I'D--



SWUD

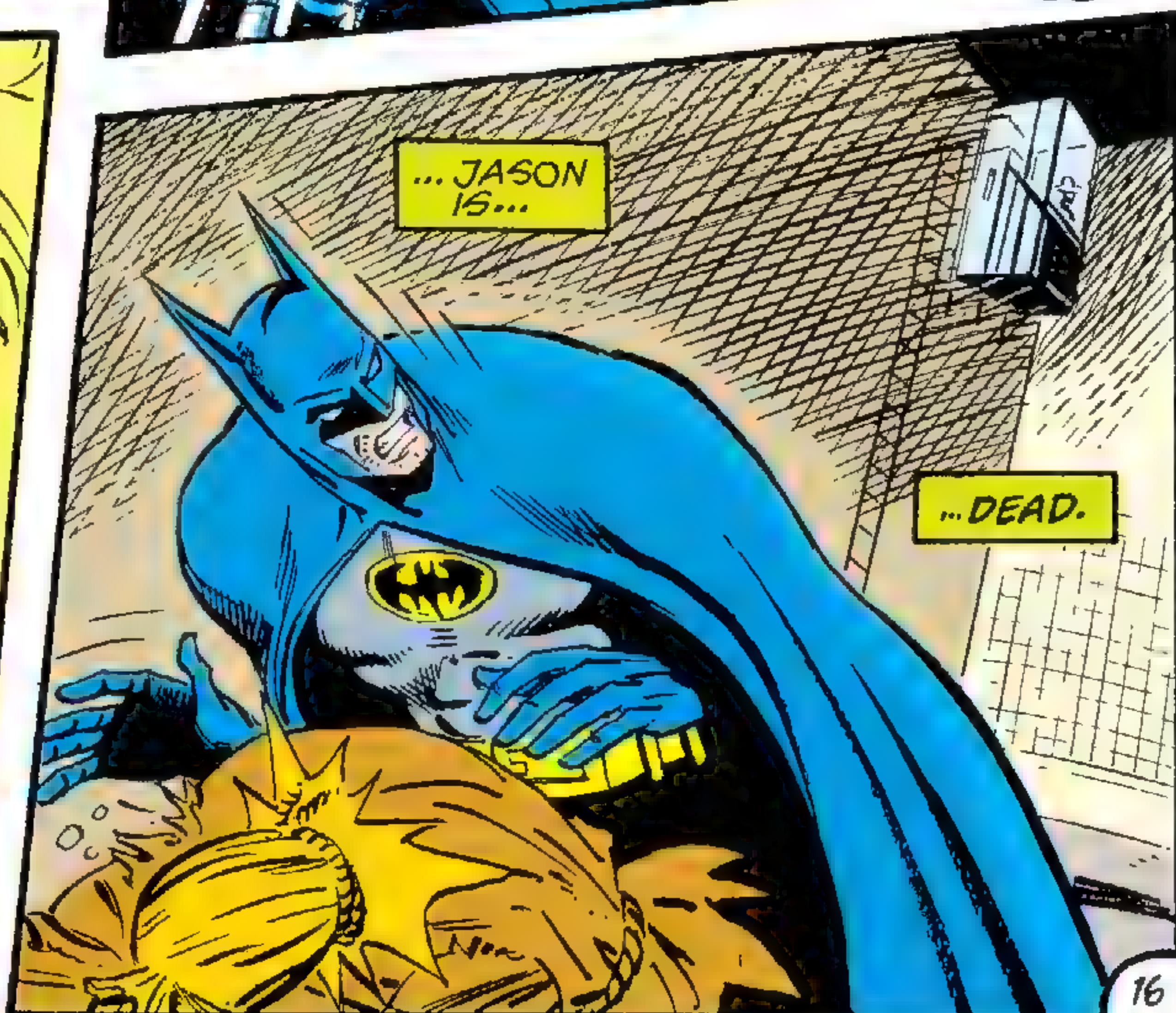
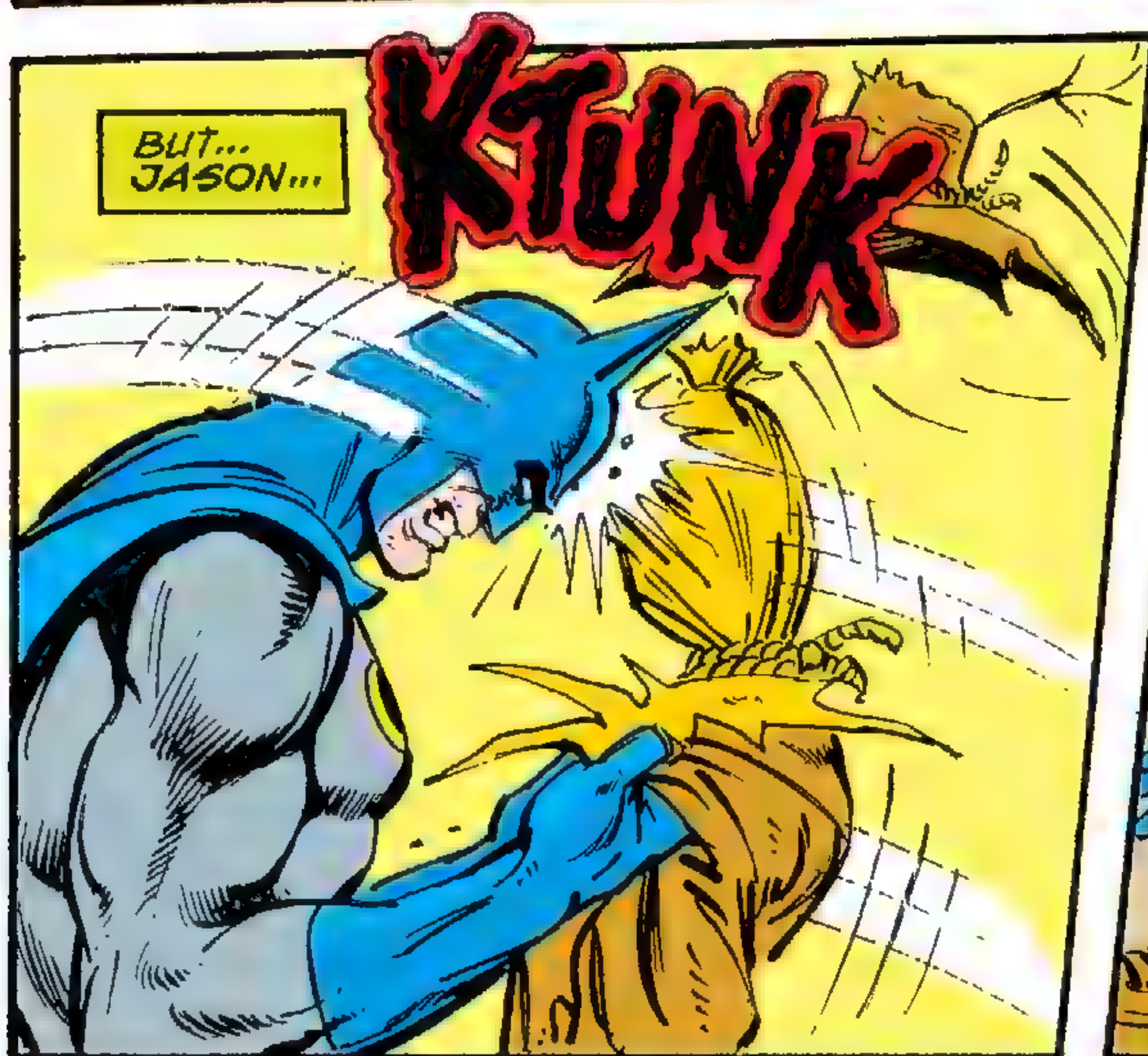
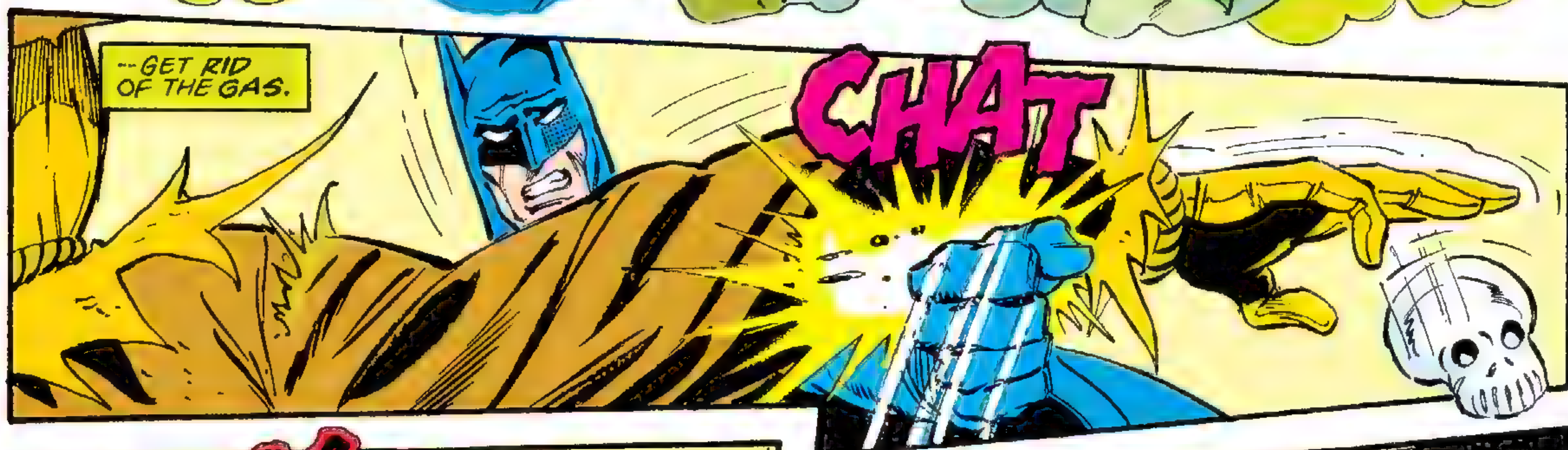
UNFF!



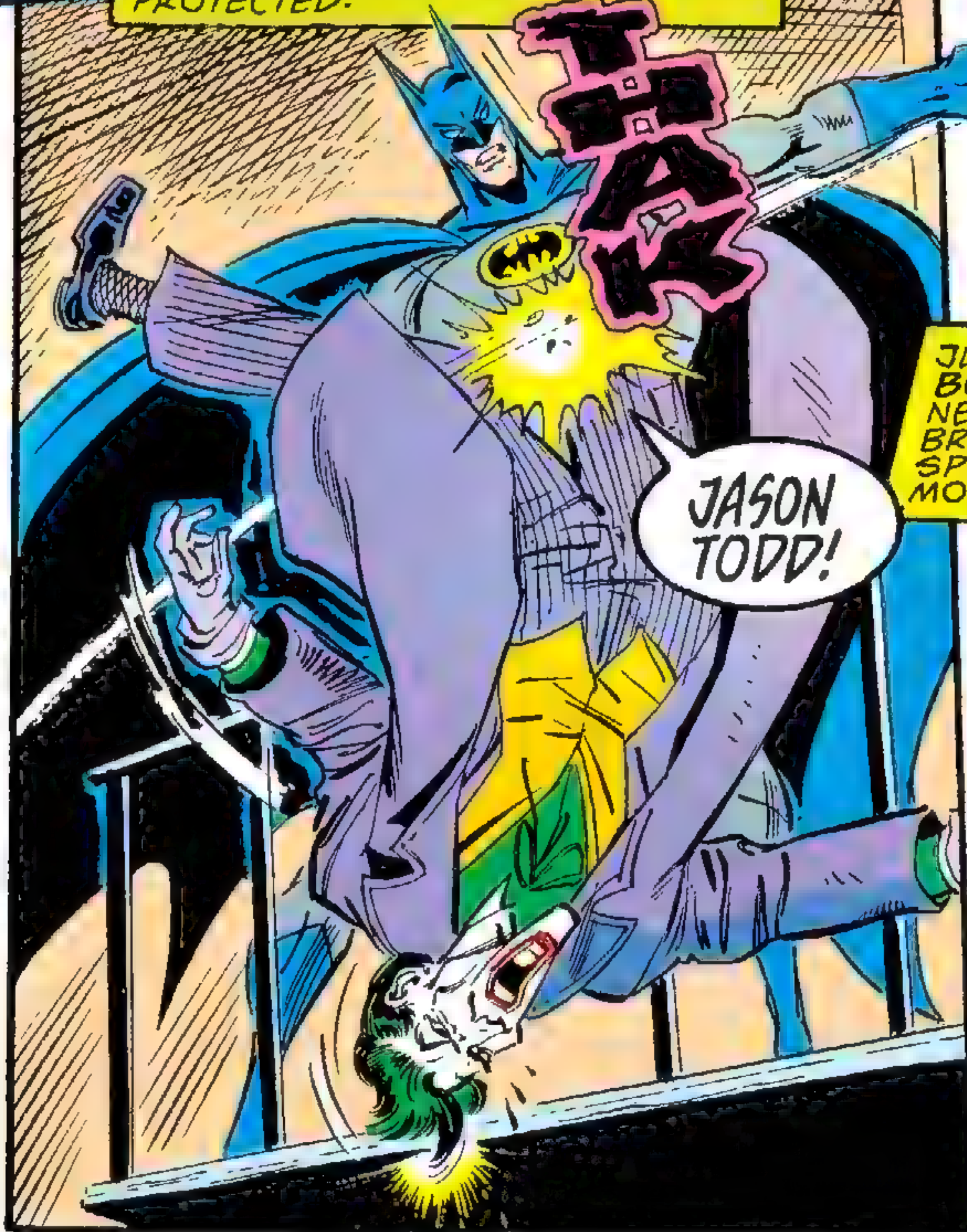
SKASH

GAS--!











JUST A BOY, BUT FAR TOO BRAVE TO FACE THE STARK, LURID MADNESS OF A GRINNING KILLER.

JASON!

KUNCH

JUST A BOY-- DEAD -- BUT TO HIS KILLER, NOTHING MORE THAN A SICK JOKE!

SWAK

SHOK

CHOOOF

SHUMP

CHUD



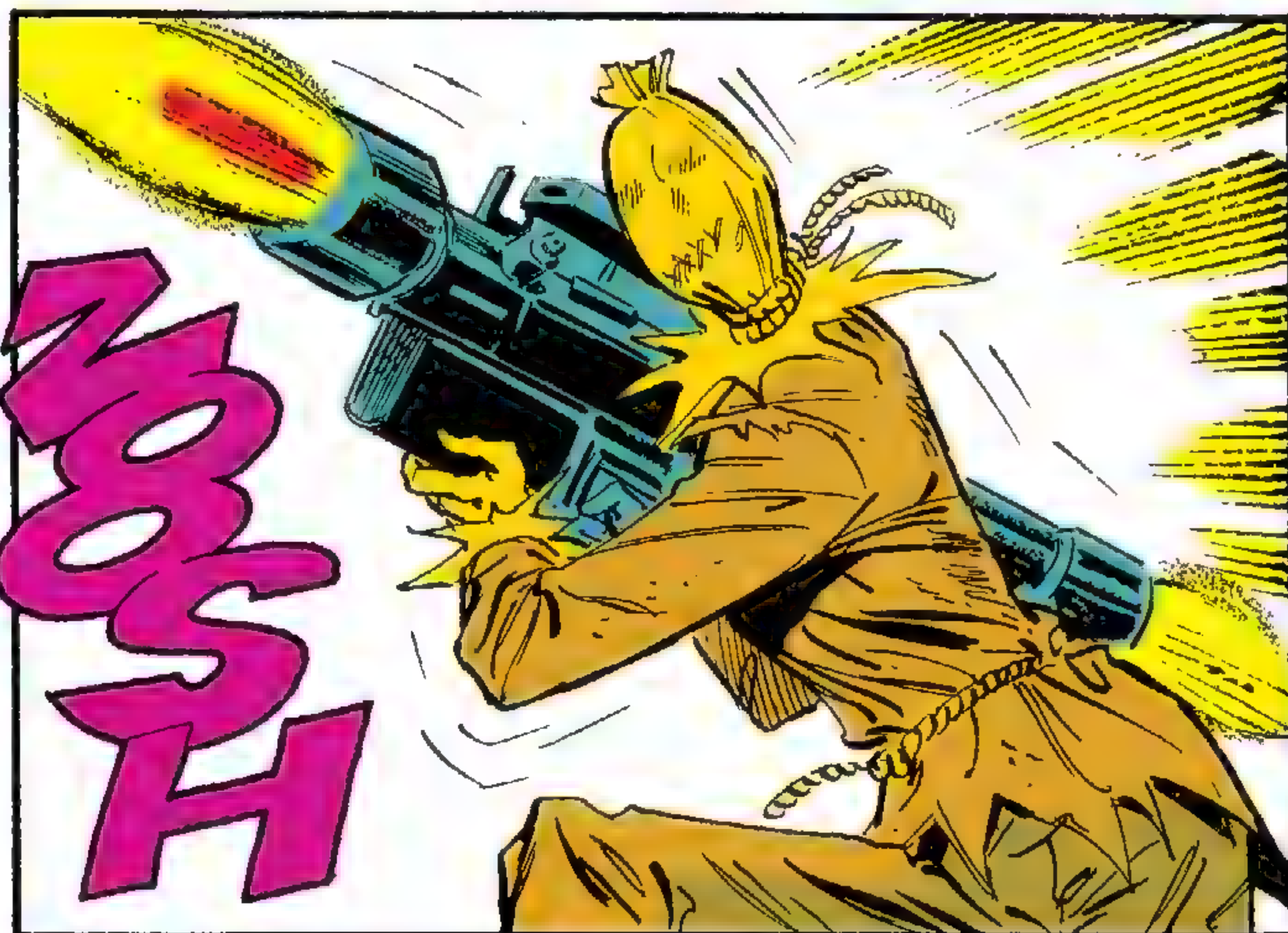
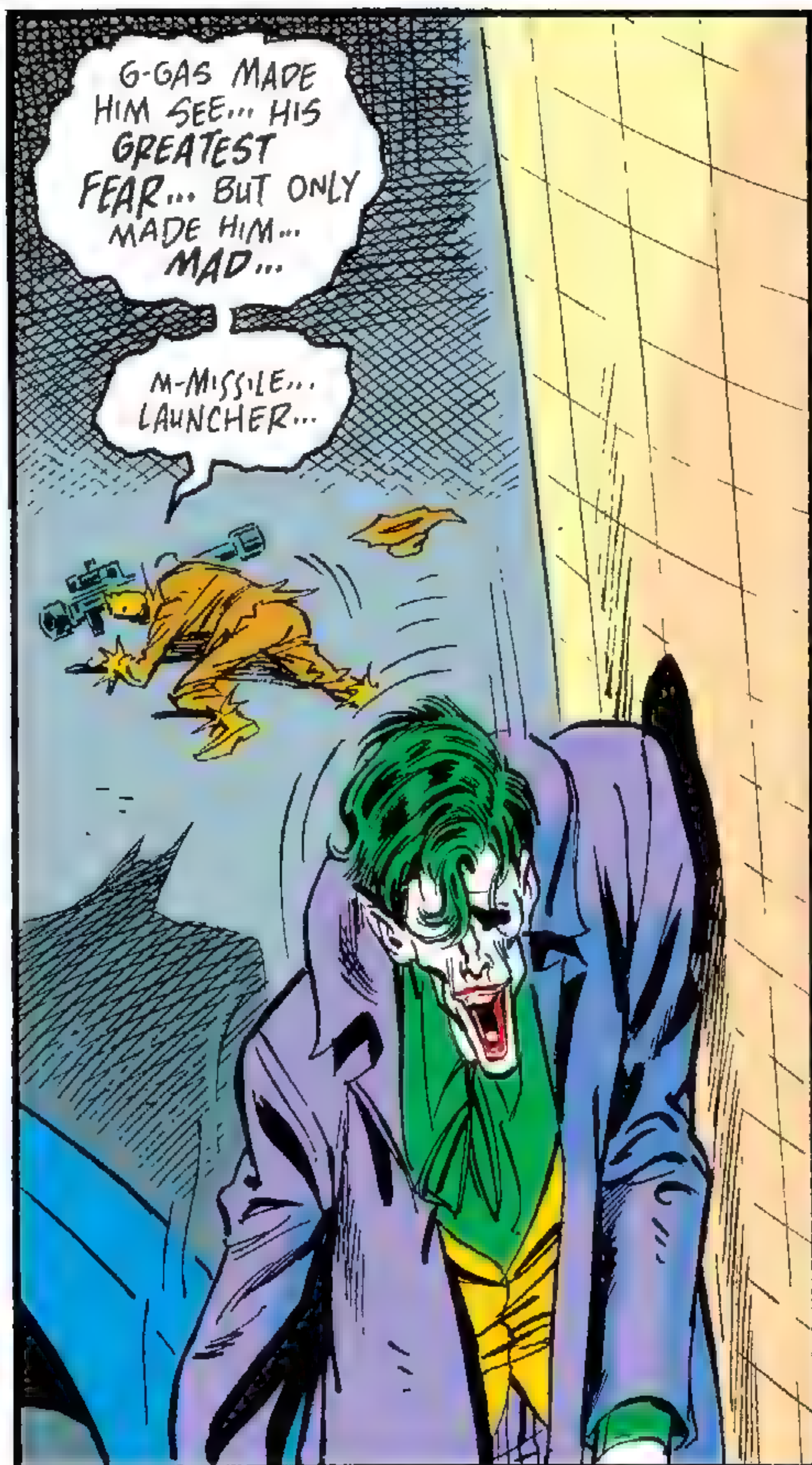
JUST A BOY-- BUT  
FOREVER GONE.

JASON!!!

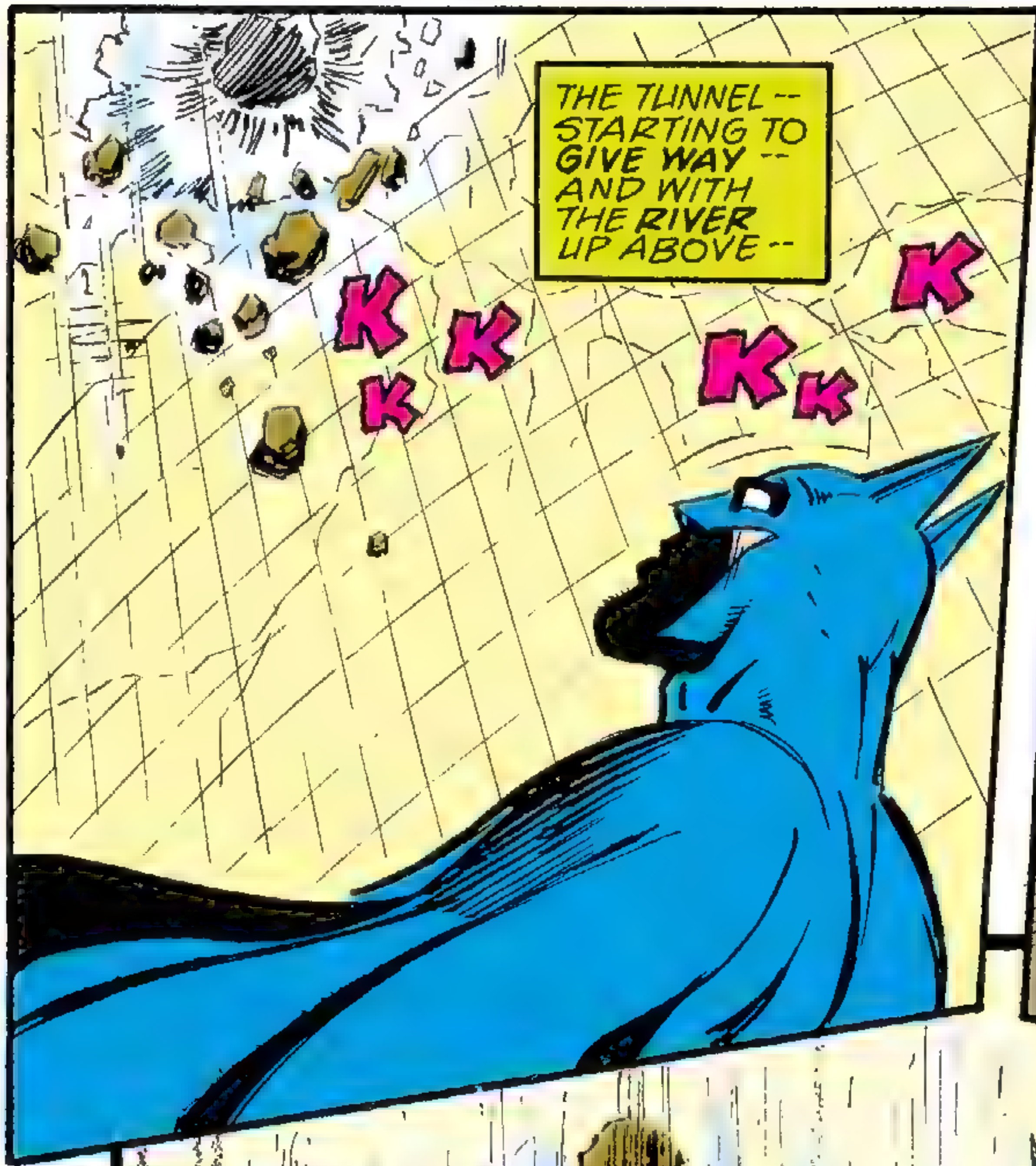
SWOKK

SLASH









THE TUNNEL--  
STARTING TO  
GIVE WAY--  
AND WITH  
THE RIVER  
UP ABOVE--



G-GOT TO...  
GET OUT OF  
HERE,  
JOKER...

L-LOOKS  
LIKE IT WON'T  
HOLD FOR  
L-LONG, BATS...  
SO YOU'D  
BETTER M-  
MAKE YOUR  
CHOICE--



--STOP US...  
OR SAVE  
YOUR 'PHONE-  
PHREAK  
MAYOR!

HE'S RIGHT -- I CAN'T  
DO BOTH, NOT IN  
THIS CONDITION...

...WHICH  
LEAVES NO  
CHOICE AT  
ALL.



NO WAY I LET  
HIM KILL  
ANOTHER...

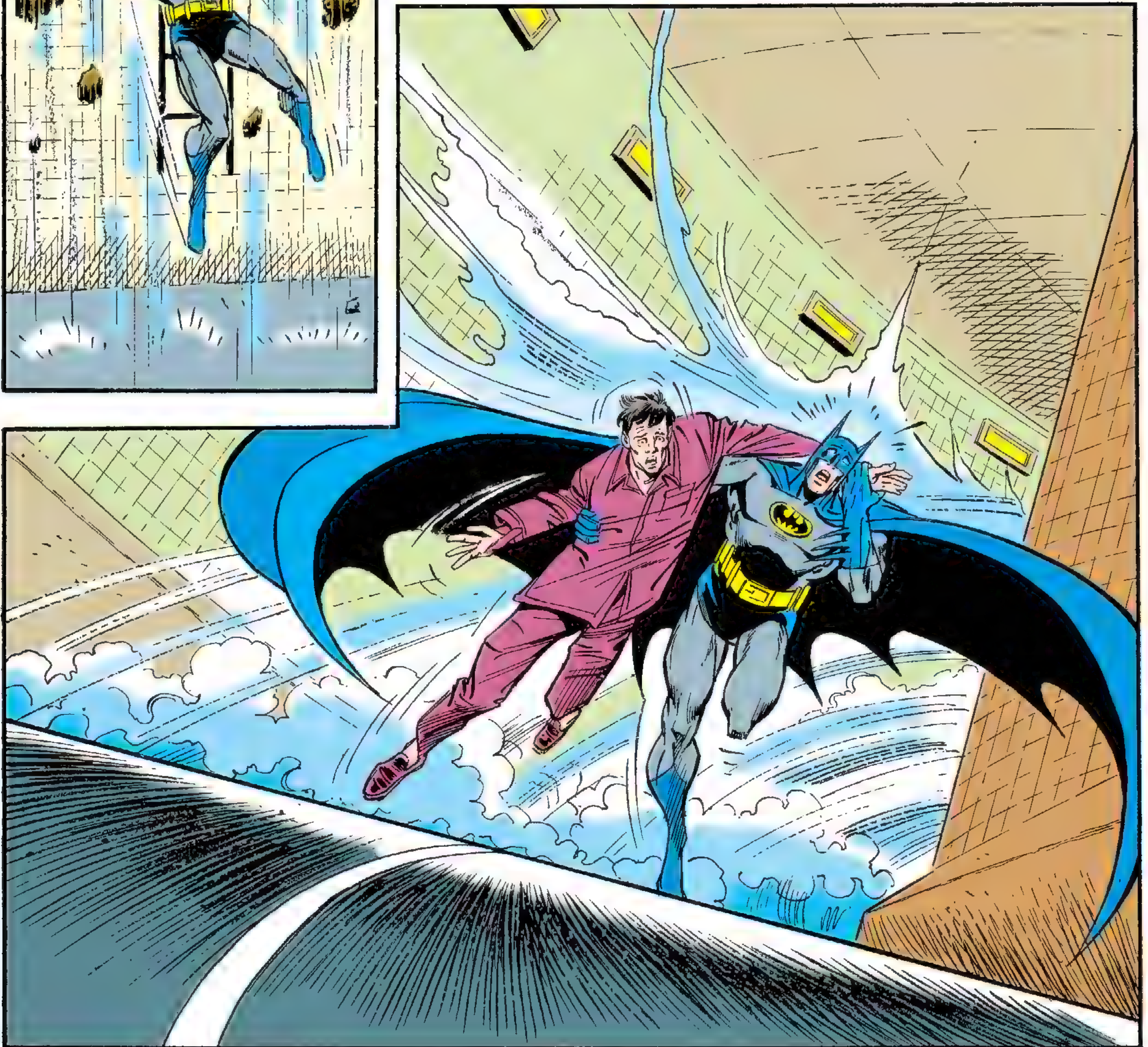


I'VE GOT  
TO SAVE  
KROL.

COME ON,  
YOU JAPING  
FOOL! THERE'S  
NO TIME TO  
WATCH--!

YOU'VE  
GOT TO GUIDE  
US TO THE  
ESCAPE  
TUNNELS!







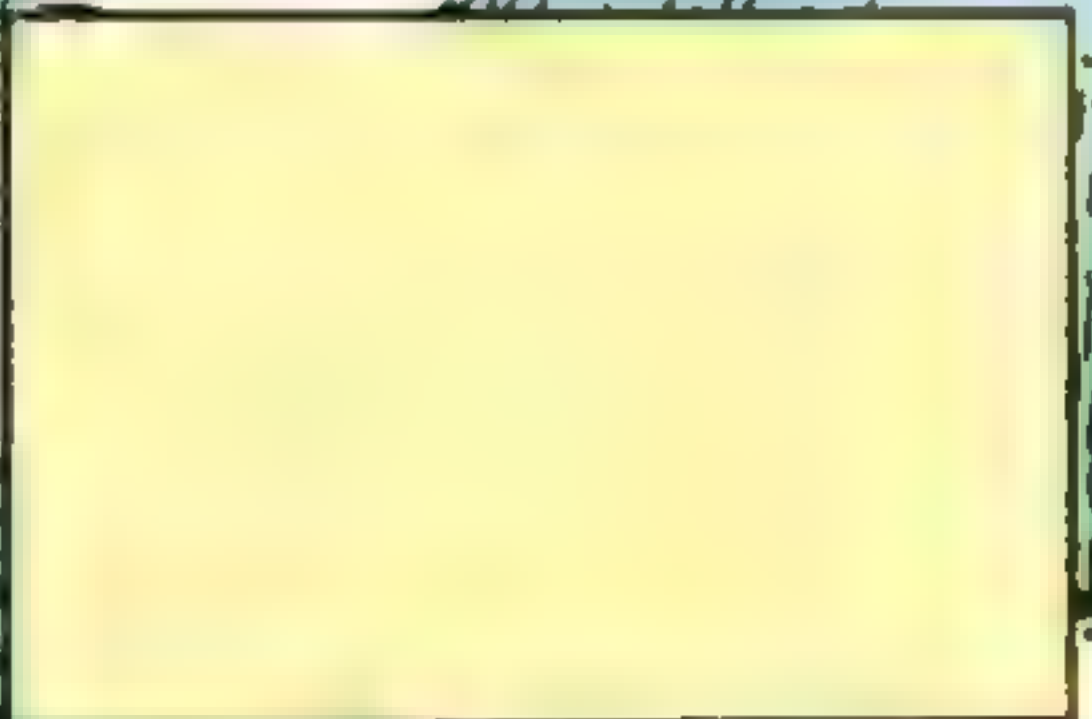
KNIGHTFALL



# DETECTIVE COMICS FEATURING BATMAN



KELLEY 93  
JONES







Cover art by  
**KELLEY JONES**



# NO REST FOR THE *WICKED*

RESCUE OF THE  
MAYOR WAS A TRAP  
JUST AS I SUSPECTED.

BUT WHAT  
CHOICE DID  
I HAVE?

JOKER'S PROBABLY  
GIGGLING HIMSELF  
SICK RIGHT NOW.

MAYBE HE'LL LAUGH  
HIMSELF TO DEATH.

CHUCK DIXON  
*writer*

GRAHAM NOLAN  
*penciller*

SCOTT HANNA  
*inker*

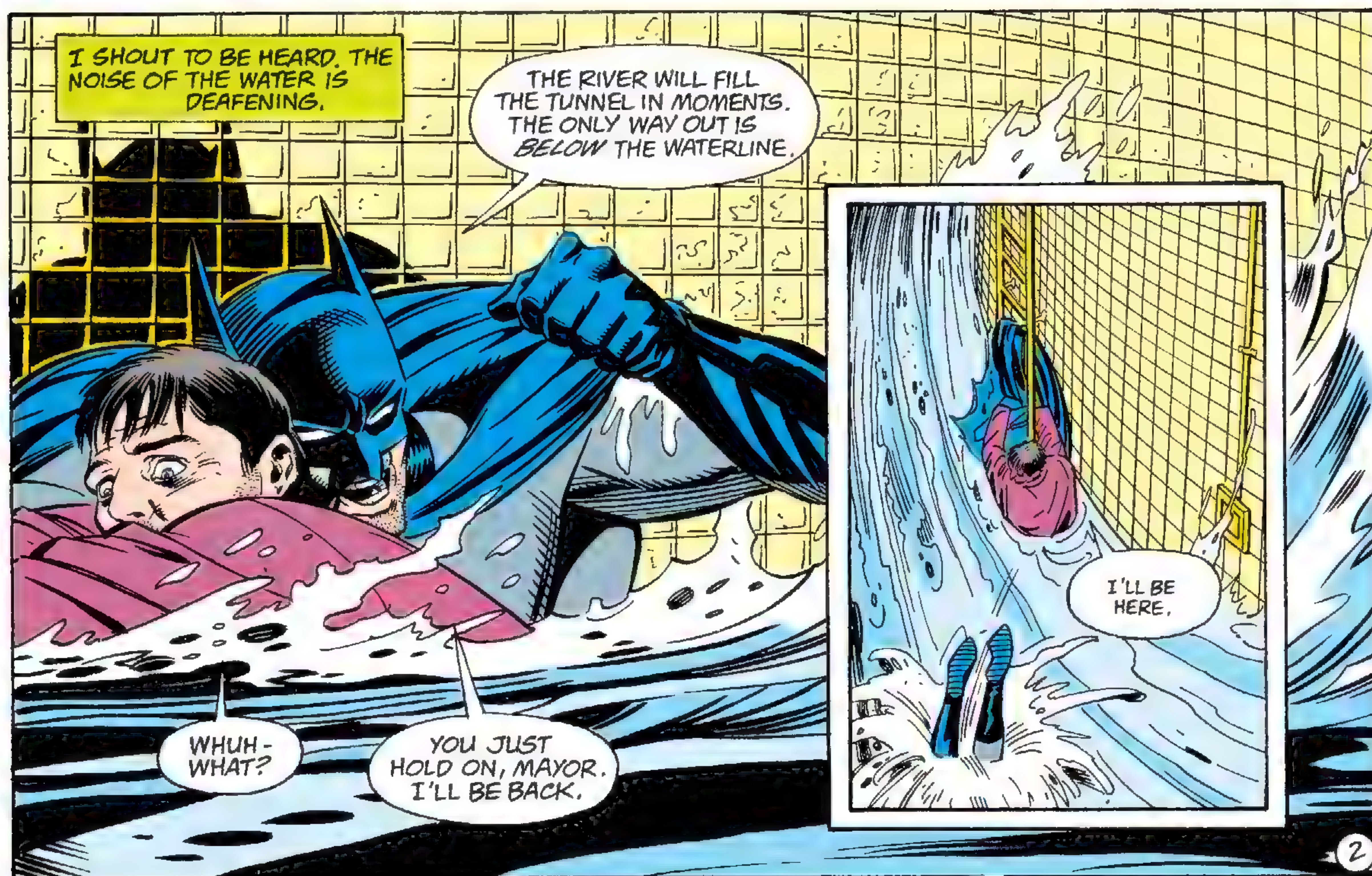
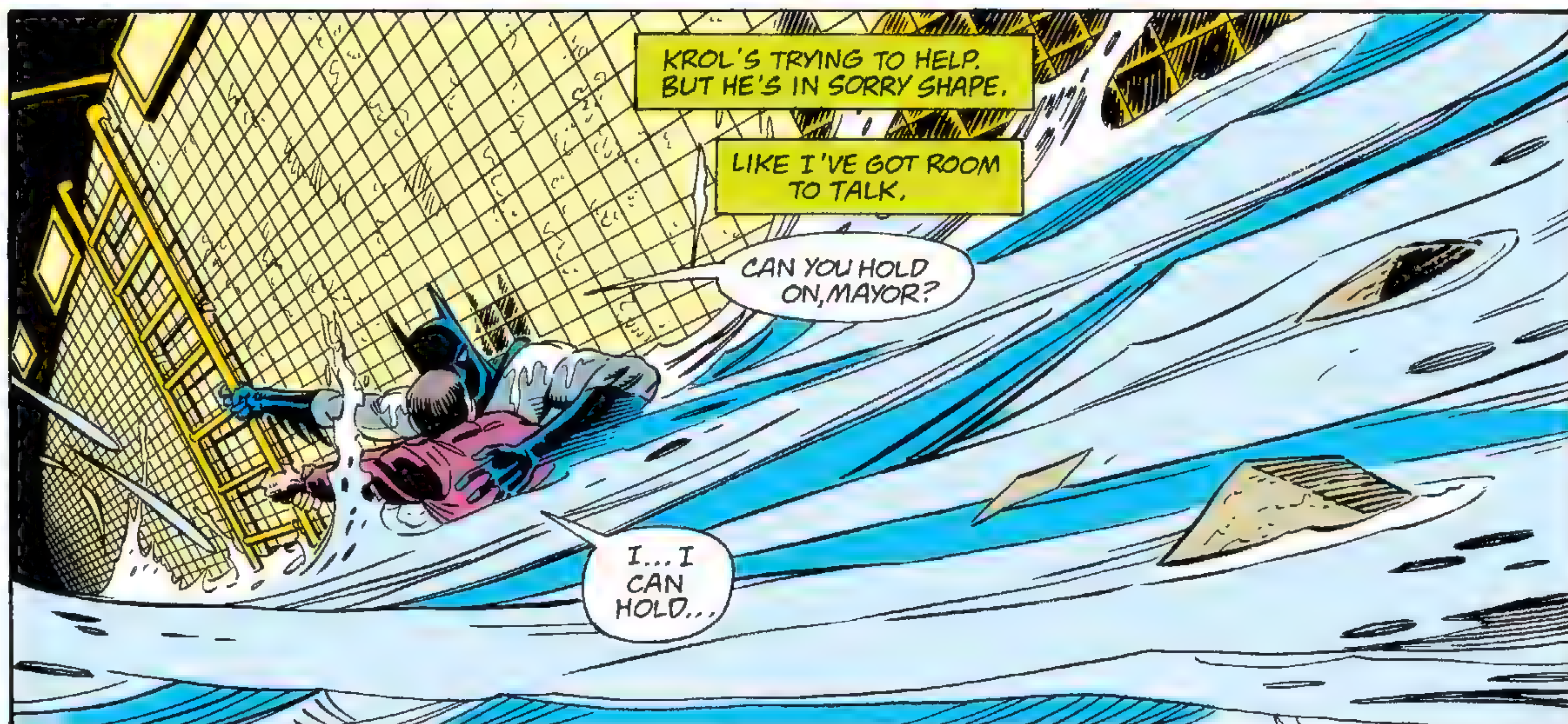
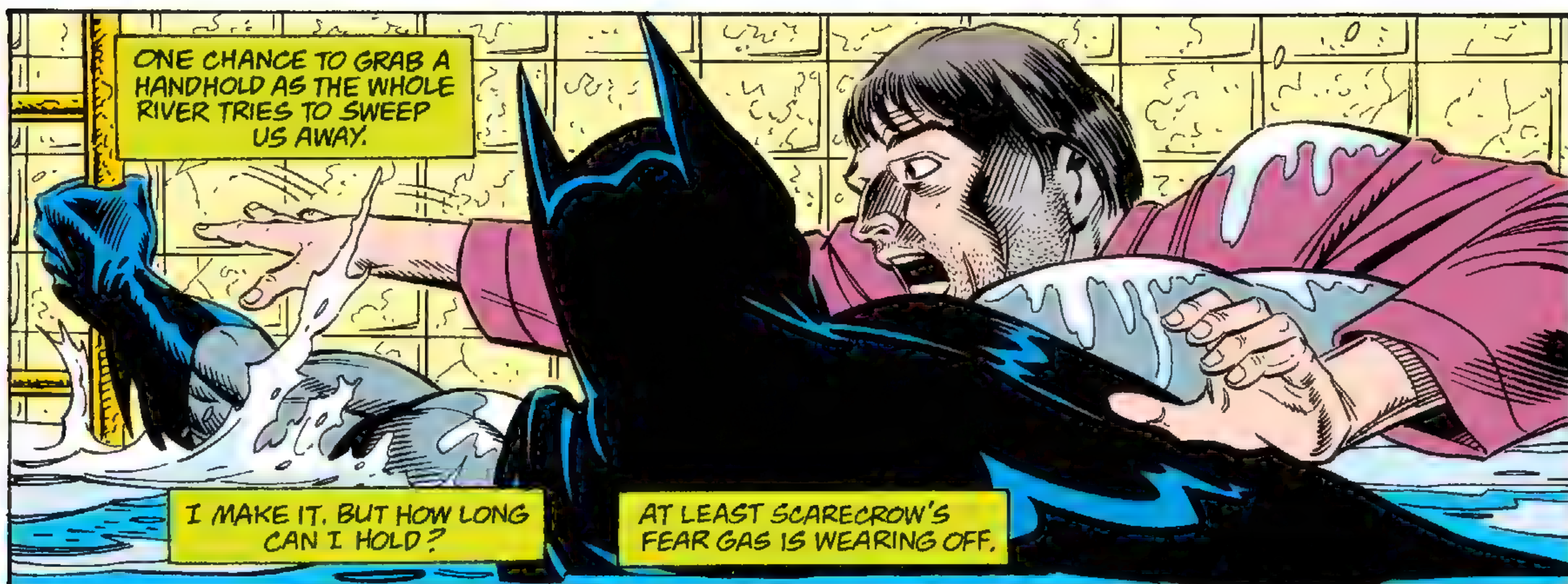
ADRIENNE ROY  
*colorist*

JOHN COSTANZA  
*letterer*

SCOTT PETERSON and DENNIS O'NEIL  
*editors*

BATMAN *created by* BOB KANE









KROL SOUNDS  
SCARED.

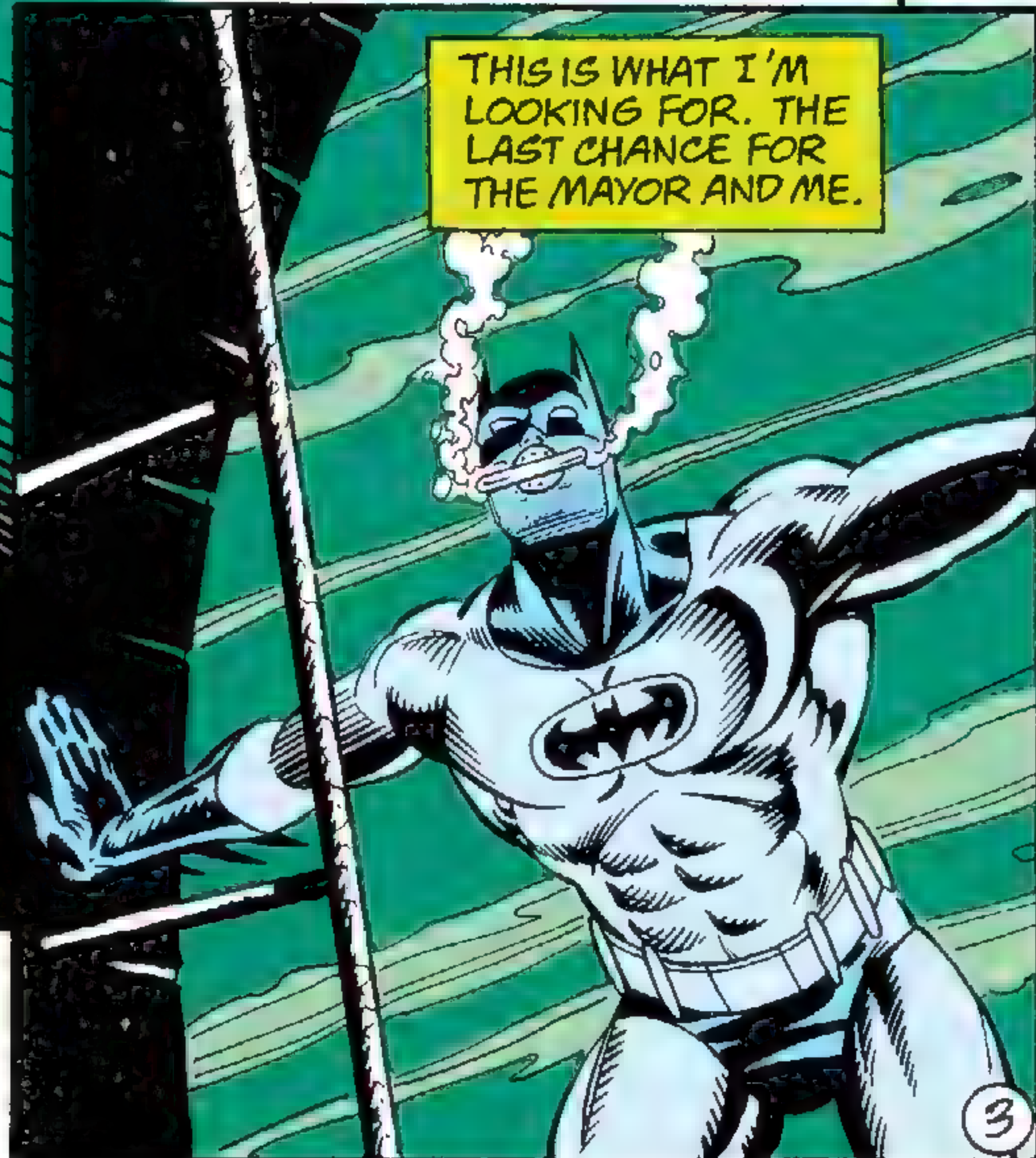
HE'S NOT REALLY A  
WEAK MAN, HE'S A  
FAIRLY STRONG ONE  
PUSHED BEYOND HIS  
LIMITS.



ALL MEN HAVE LIMITS. THEY  
LEARN WHAT THEY ARE AND  
THEN LEARN NOT TO EXCEED  
THEM.



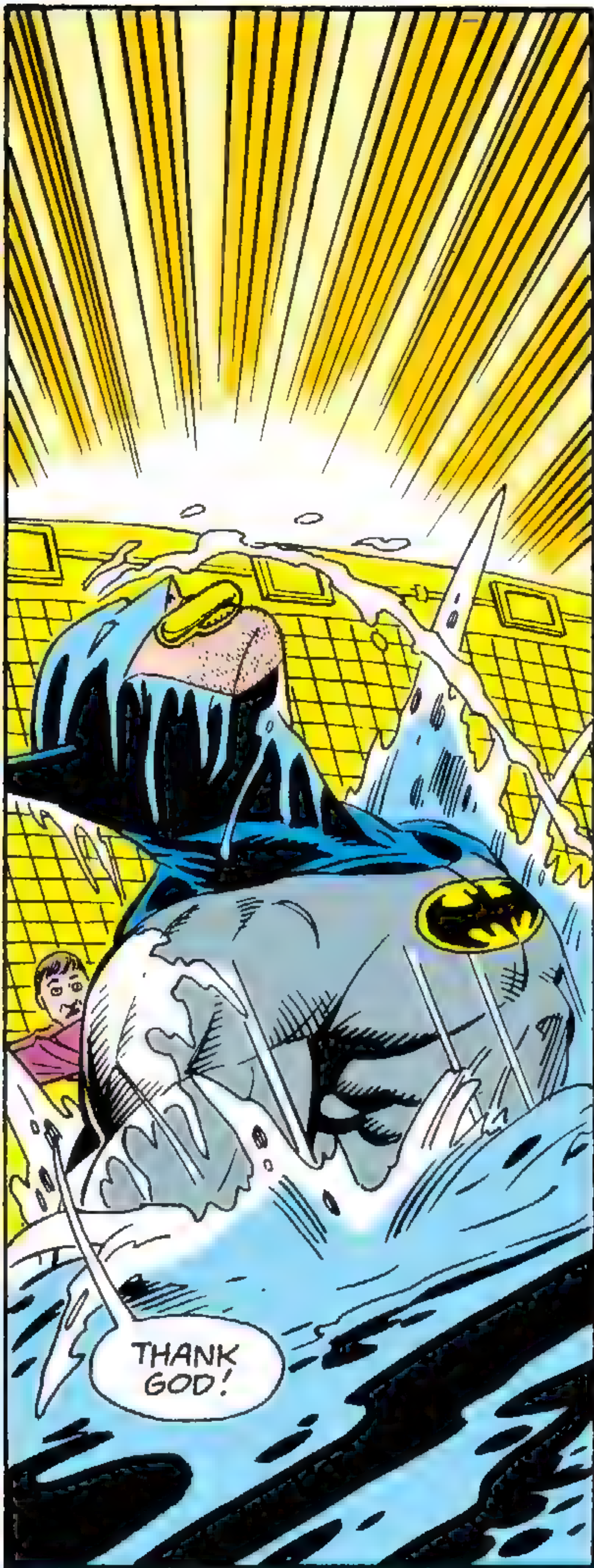
I IGNORE  
MINE.



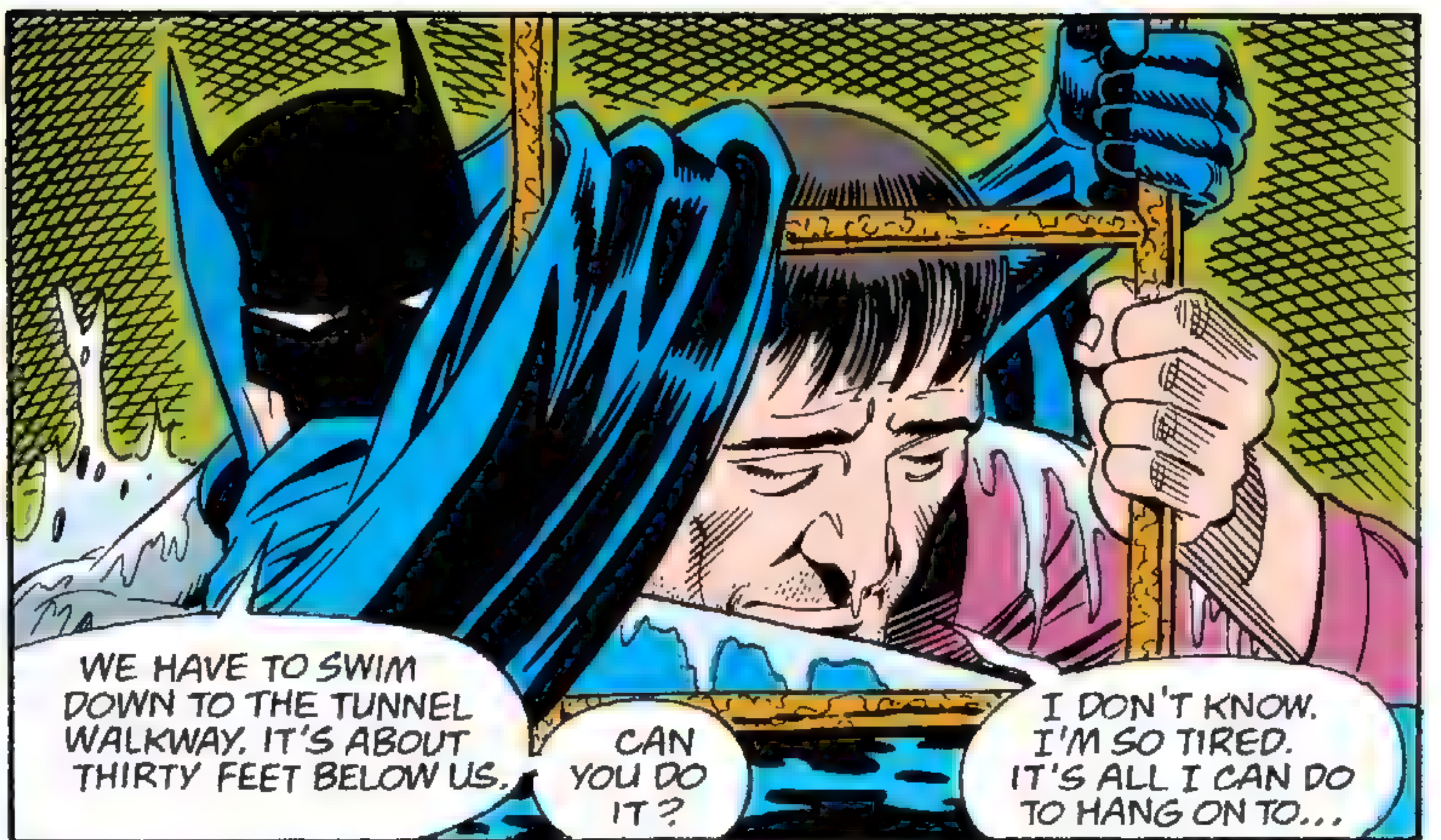
THIS IS WHAT I'M  
LOOKING FOR. THE  
LAST CHANCE FOR  
THE MAYOR AND ME.

3





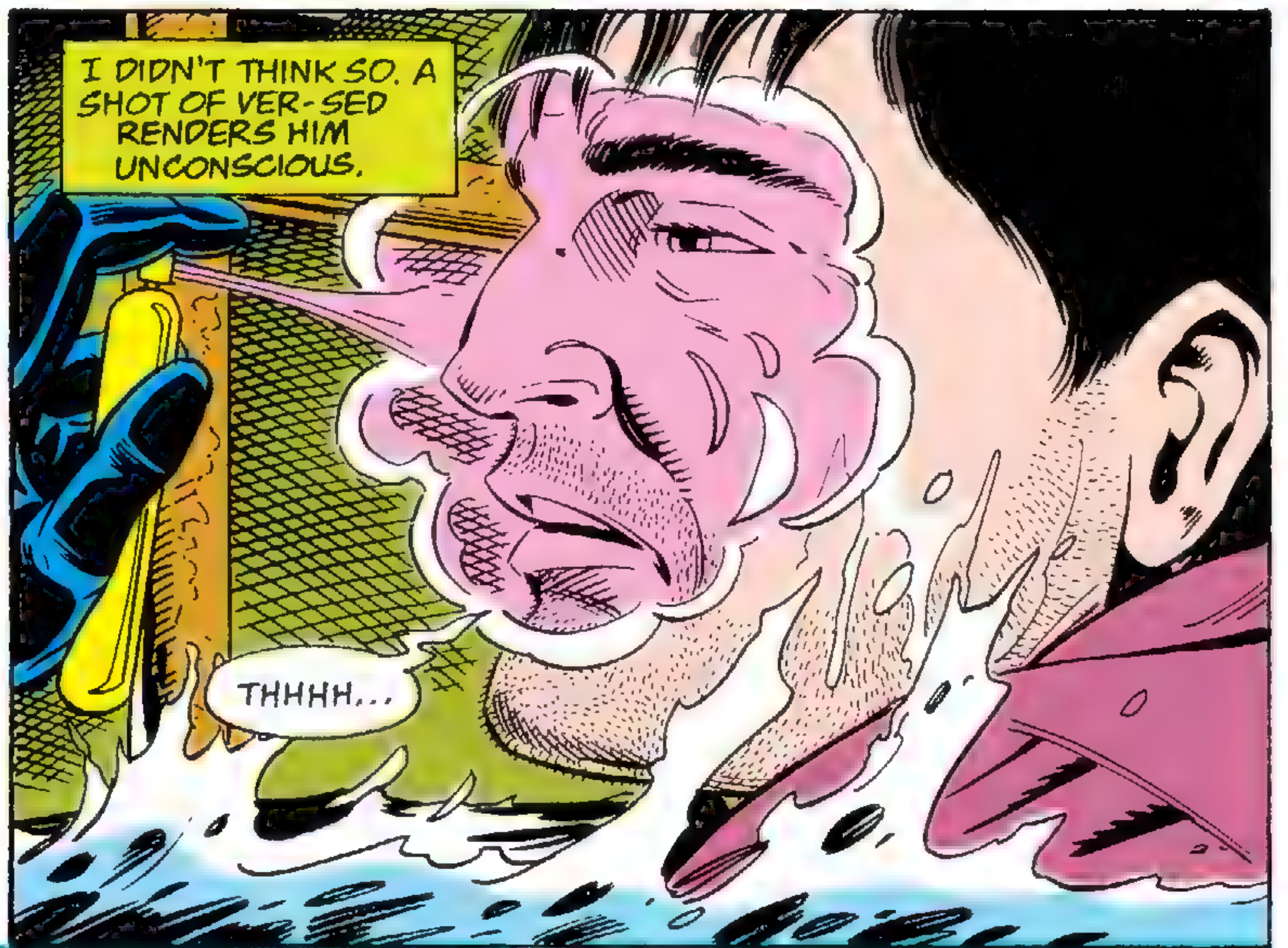
THANK GOD!



WE HAVE TO SWIM DOWN TO THE TUNNEL WALKWAY. IT'S ABOUT THIRTY FEET BELOW US.

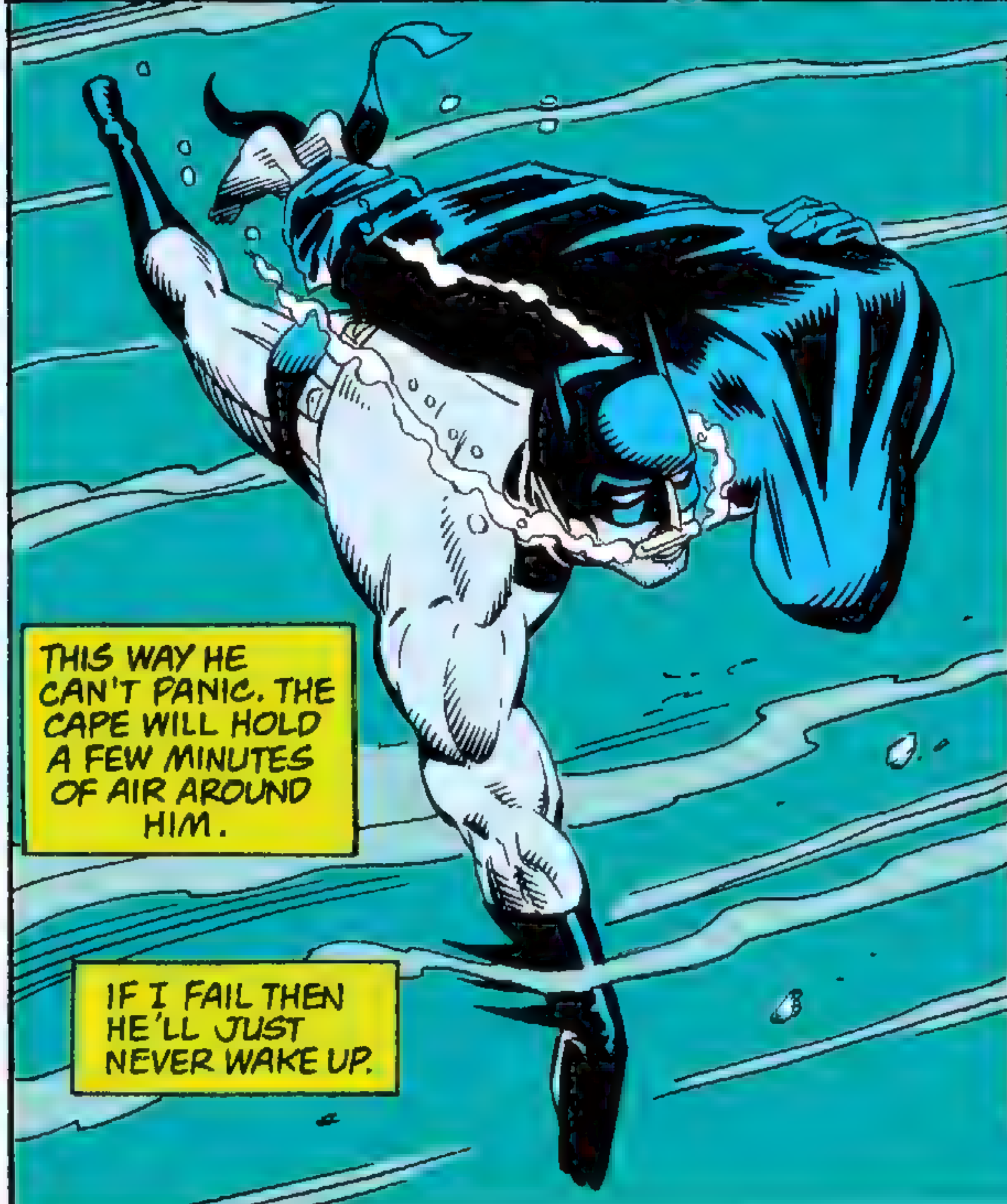
CAN YOU DO IT?

I DON'T KNOW. I'M SO TIRED. IT'S ALL I CAN DO TO HANG ON TO...



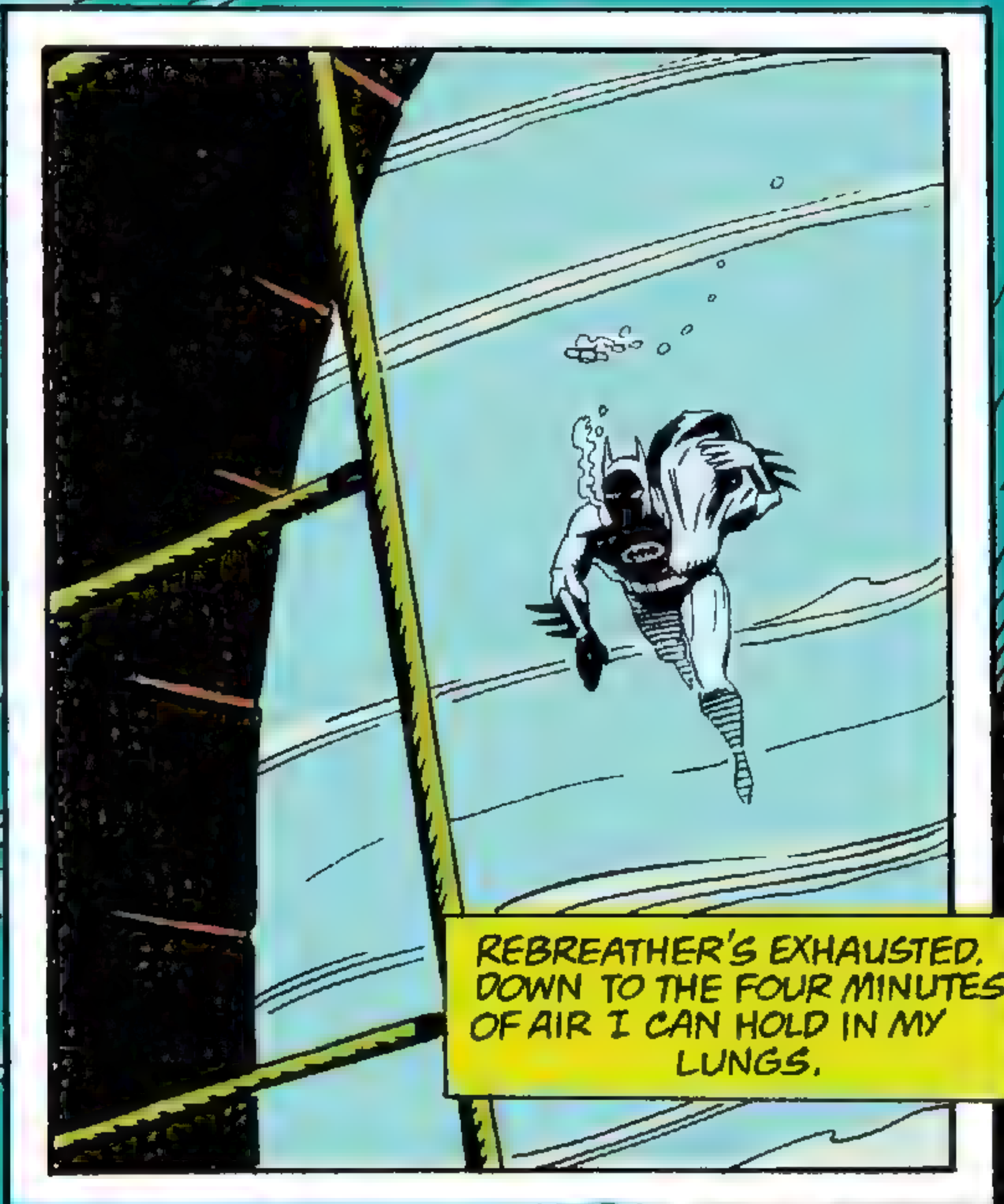
I DIDN'T THINK SO. A SHOT OF VER-SED RENDERS HIM UNCONSCIOUS.

THHHH...



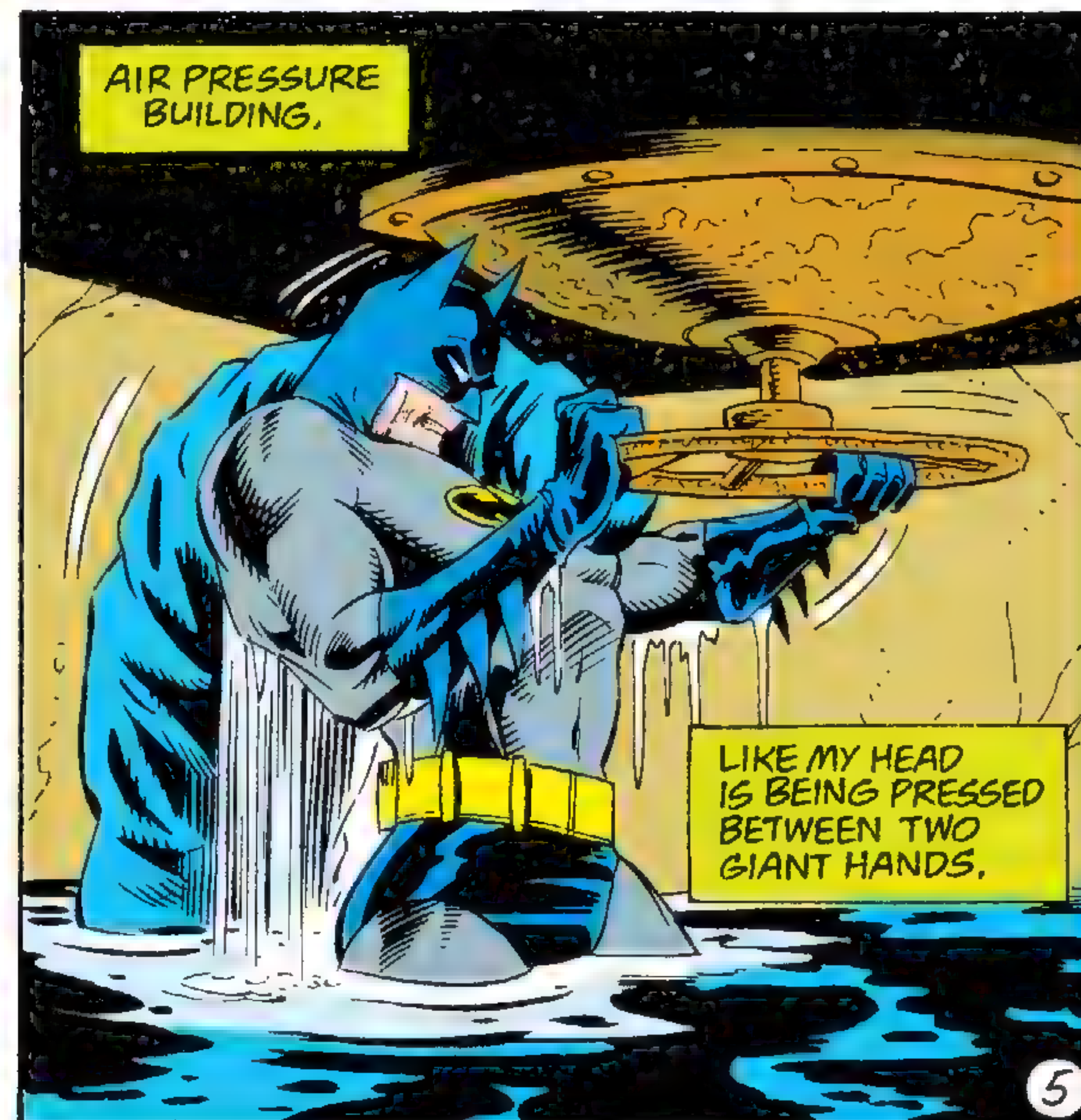
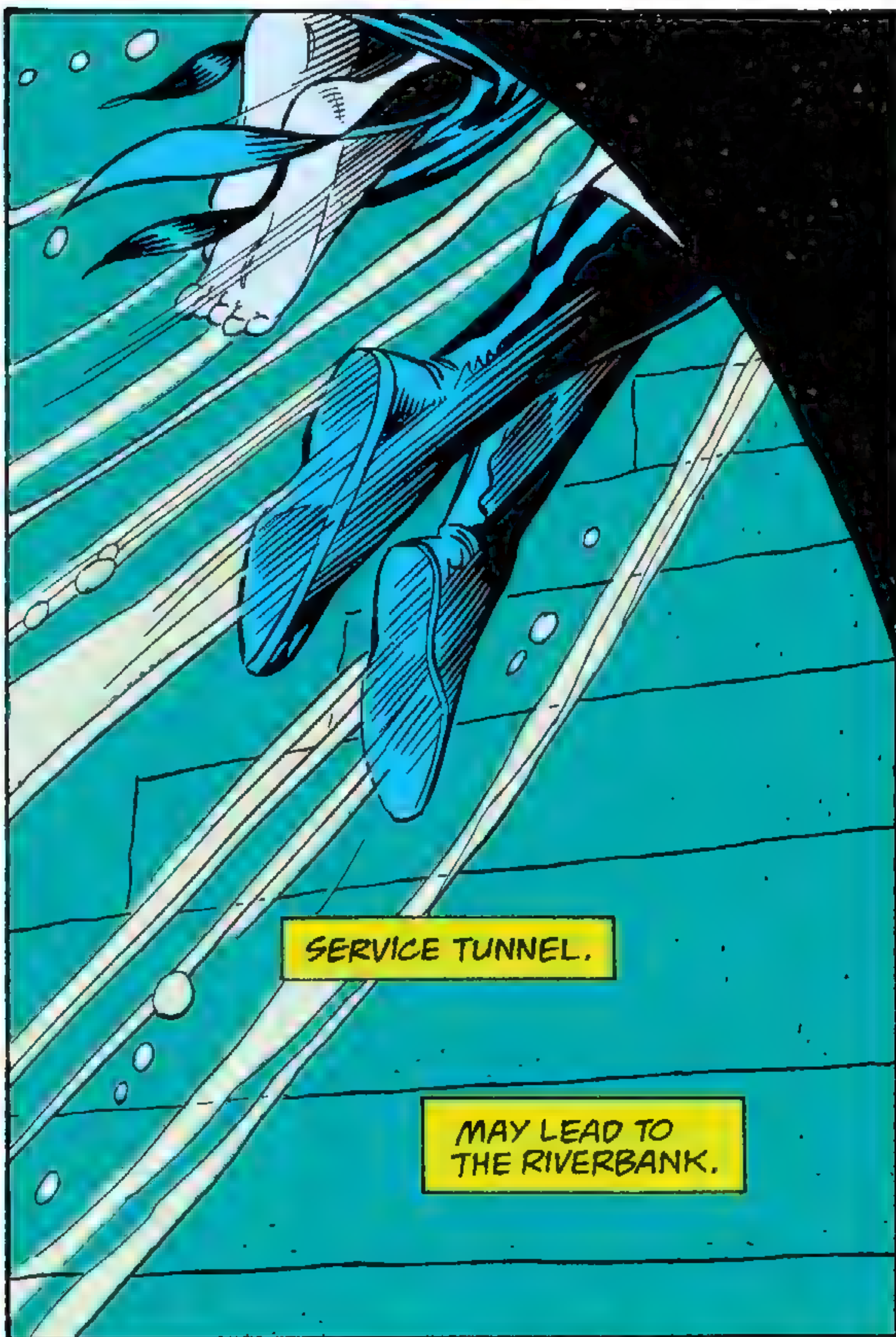
THIS WAY HE CAN'T PANIC. THE CAPE WILL HOLD A FEW MINUTES OF AIR AROUND HIM.

IF I FAIL THEN HE'LL JUST NEVER WAKE UP.



REBREATHER'S EXHAUSTED. DOWN TO THE FOUR MINUTES OF AIR I CAN HOLD IN MY LUNGS.



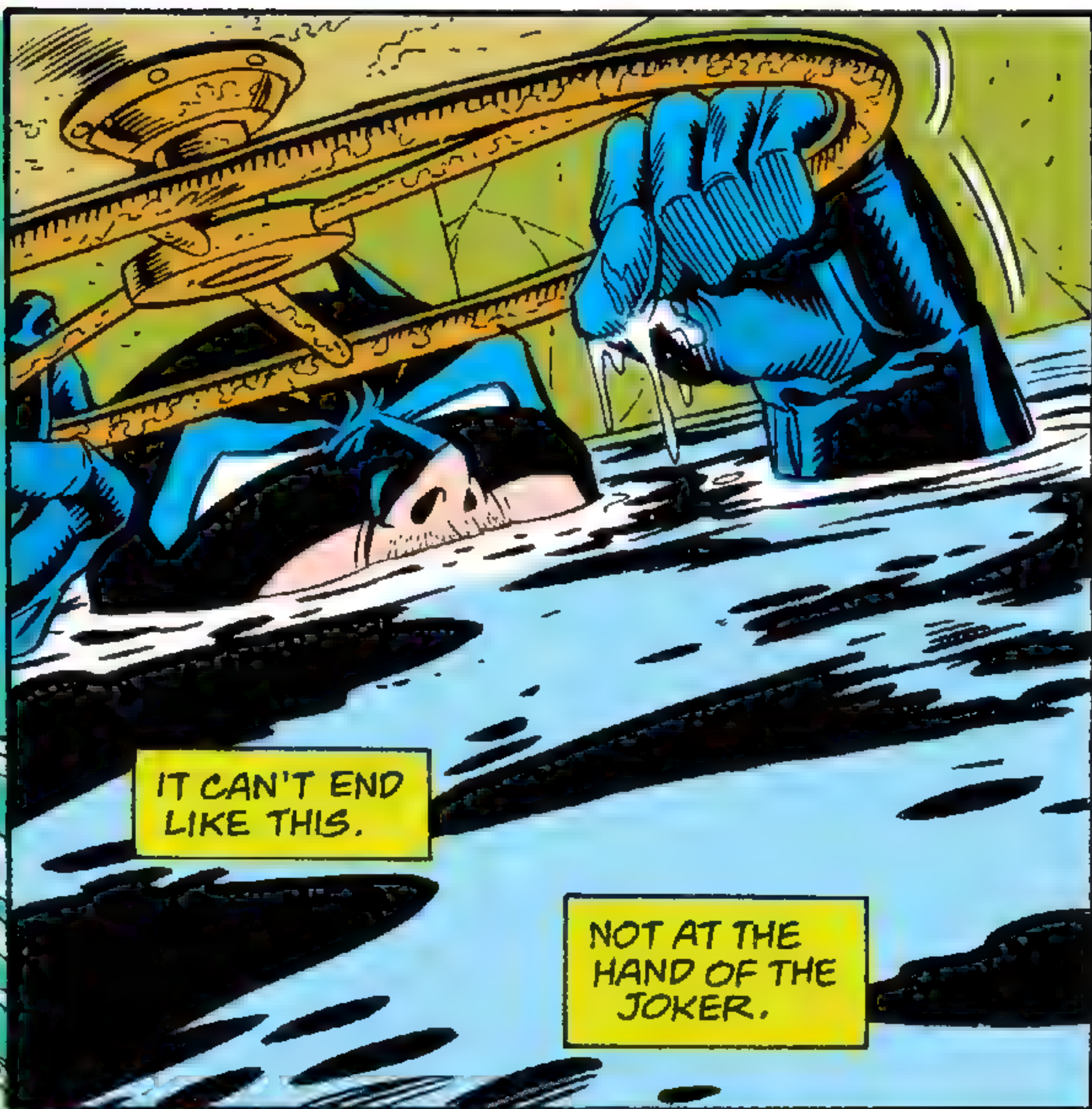






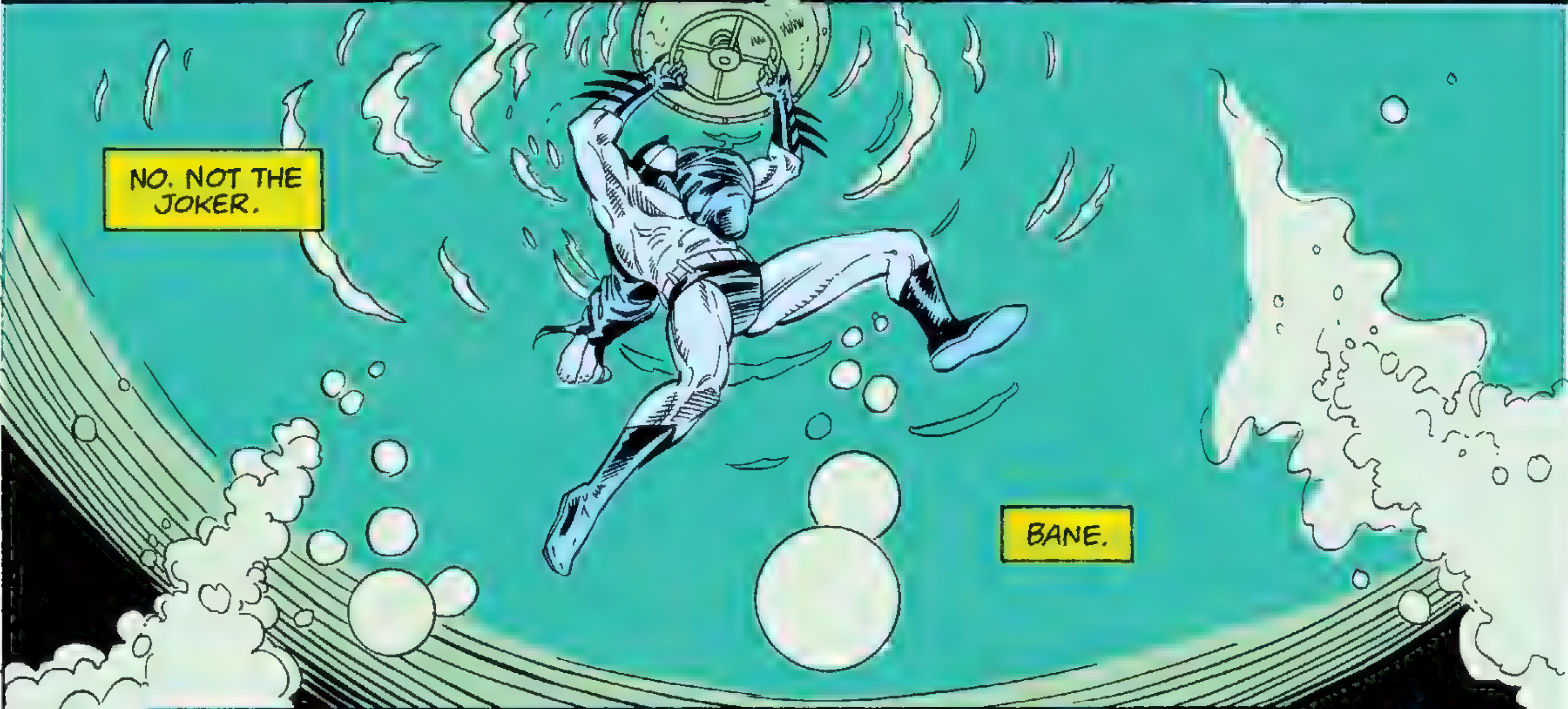
HATCH RUSTED SHUT. MAYBE BLOCKED.

STOP COMPLAINING AND GET THE JOB DONE.



IT CAN'T END LIKE THIS.

NOT AT THE HAND OF THE JOKER.



NO. NOT THE JOKER.

BANE.



HE ENGINEERED THIS.

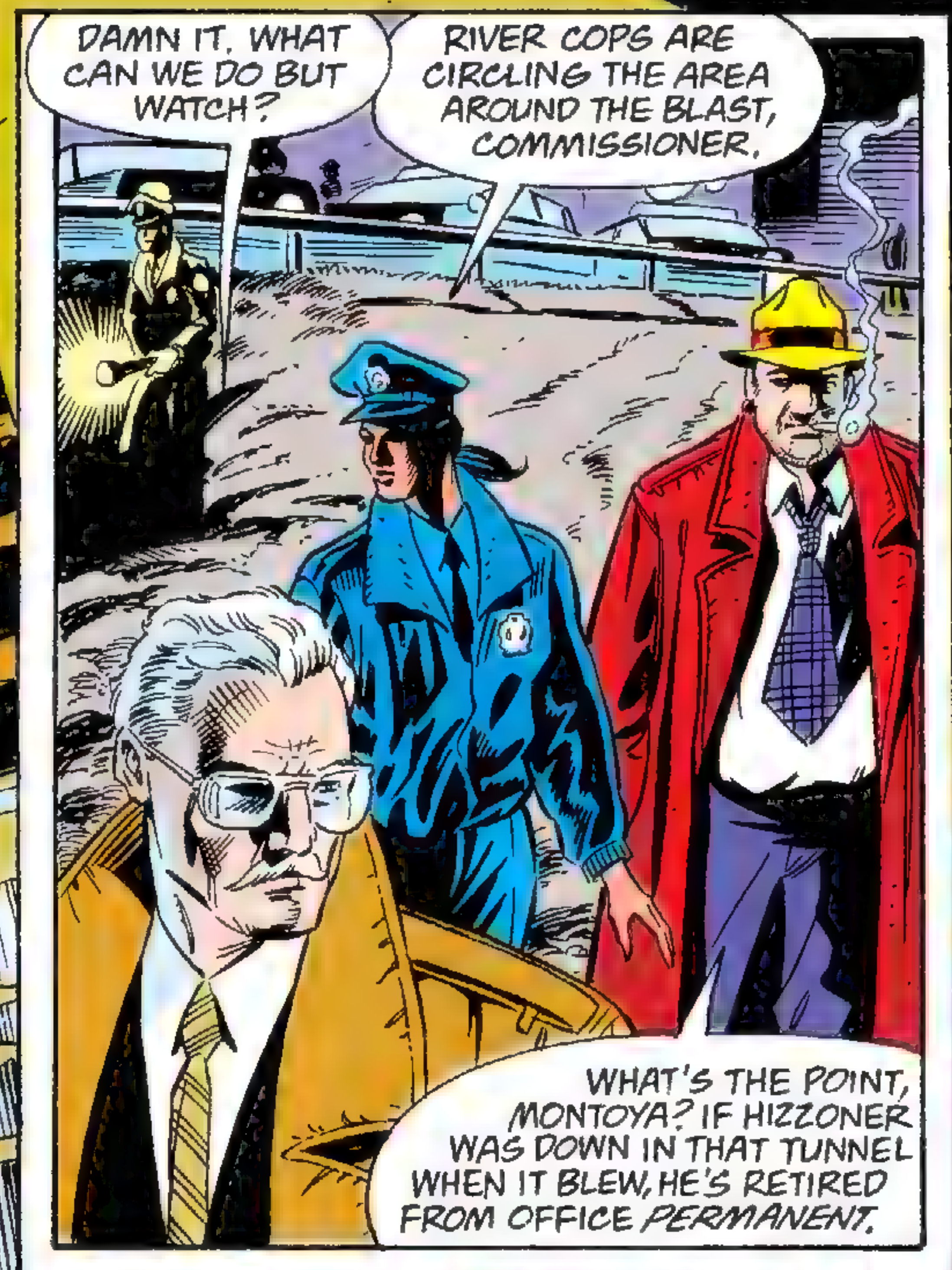
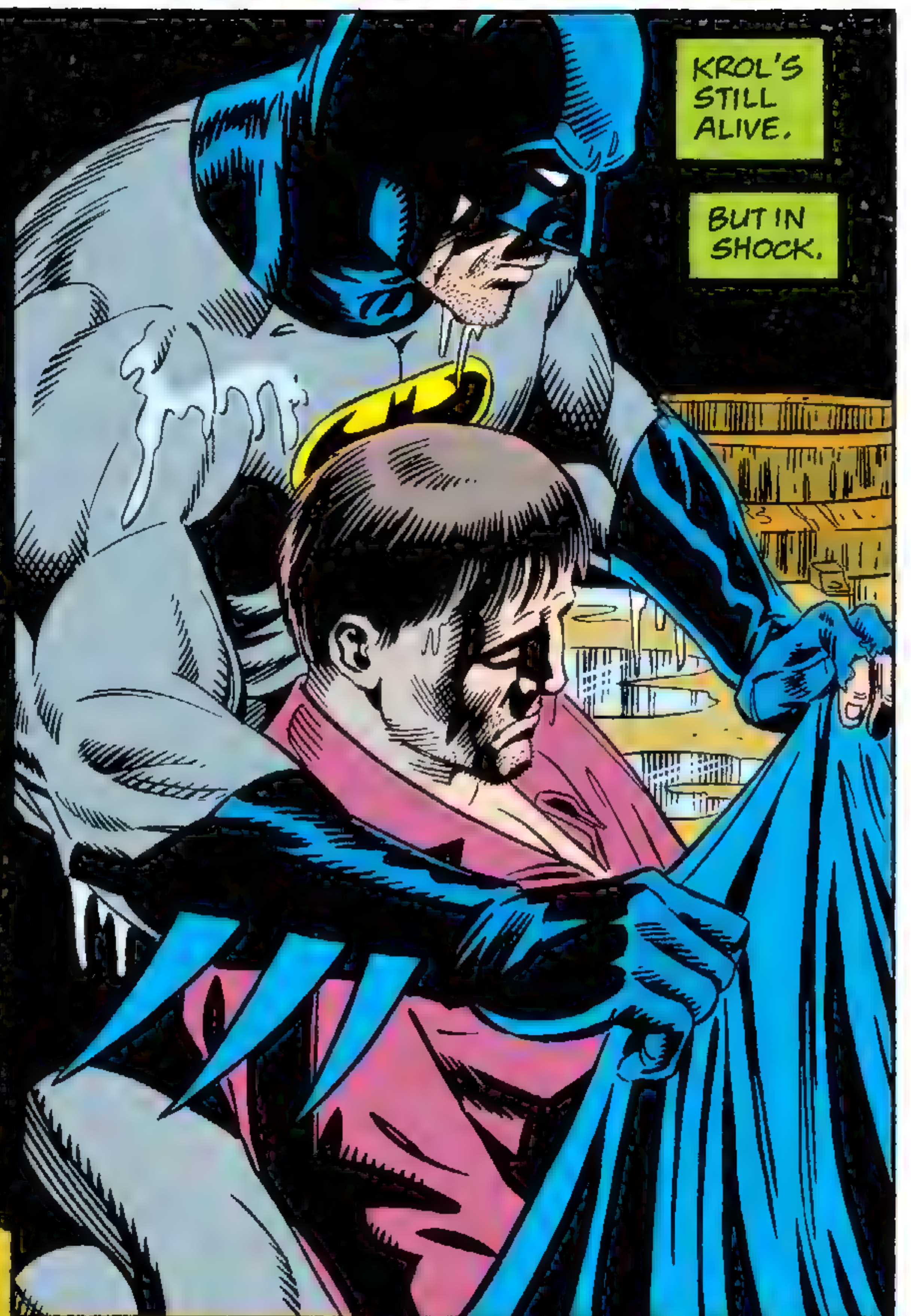
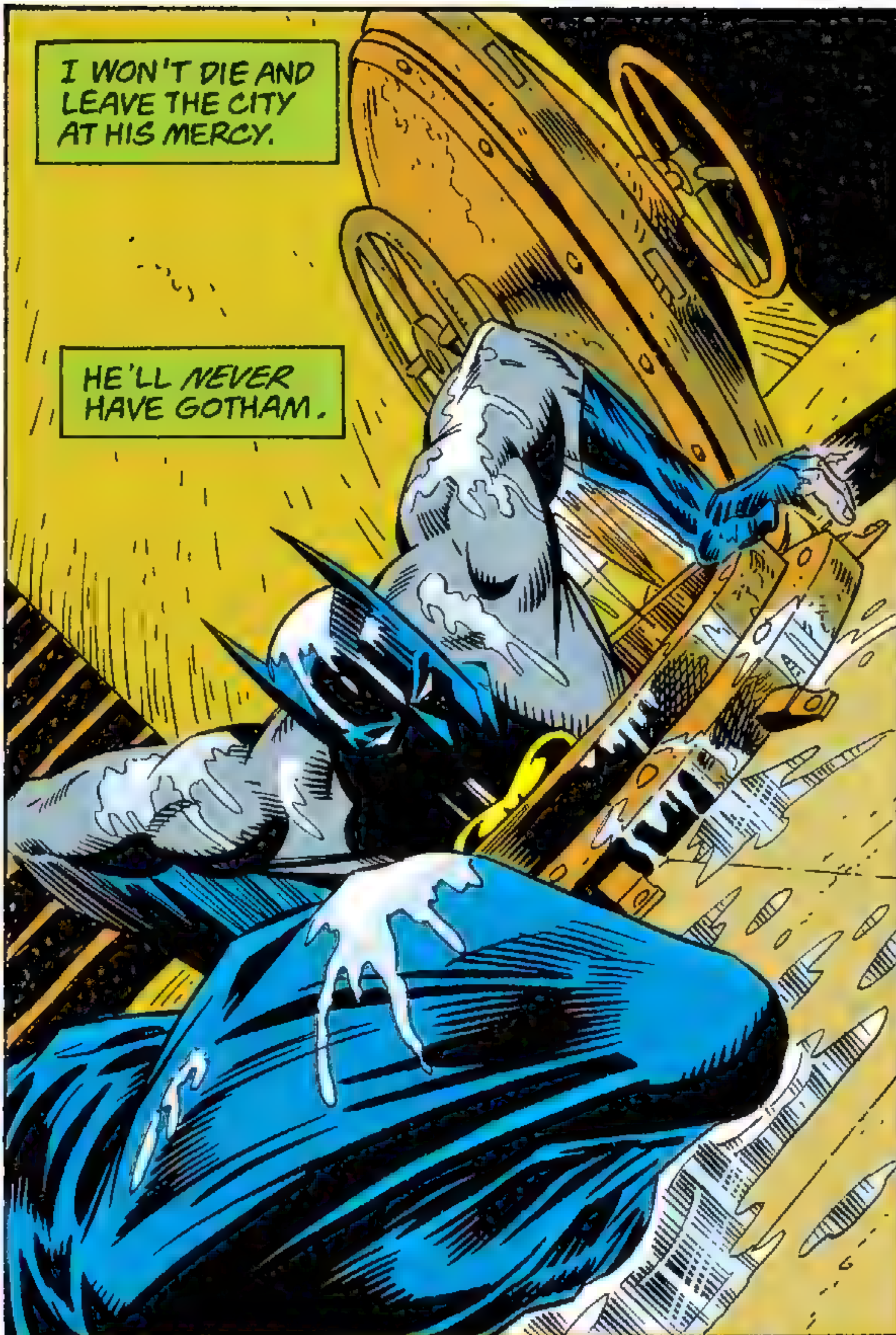


HE'S THE ONE WHO WANTS ME DEAD.

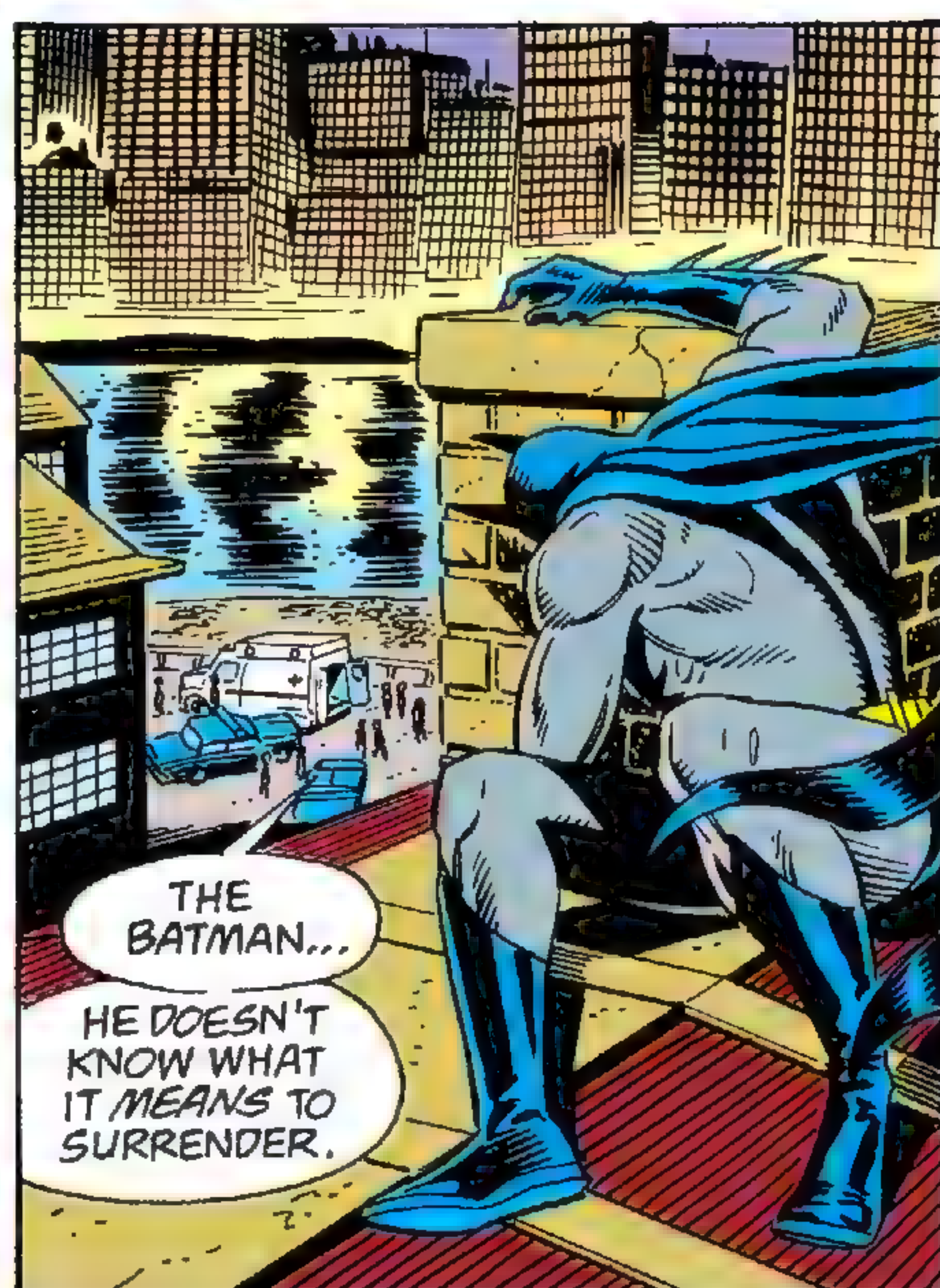
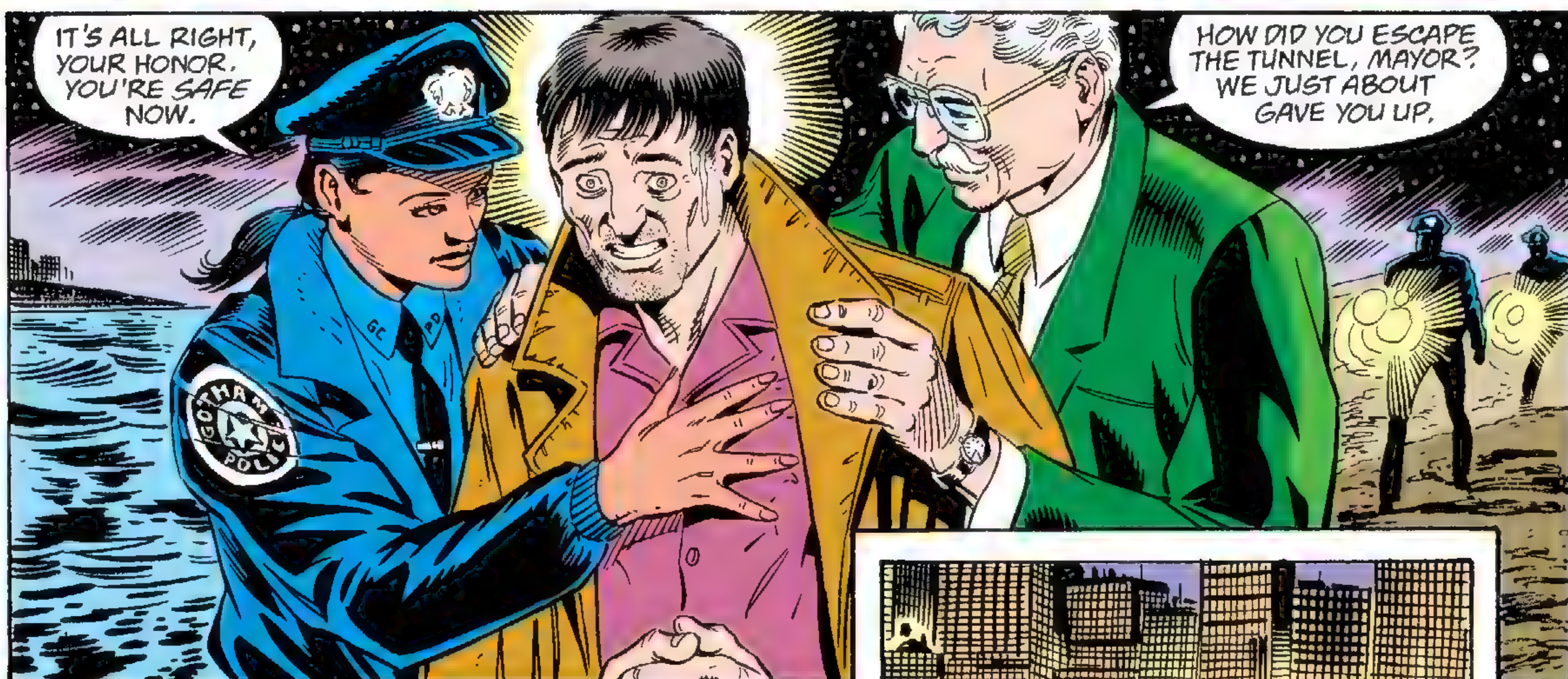
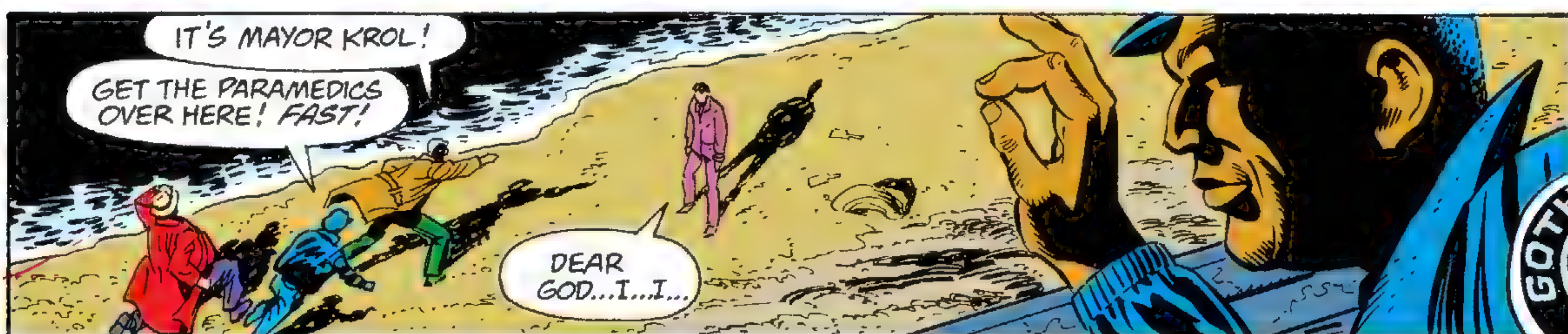
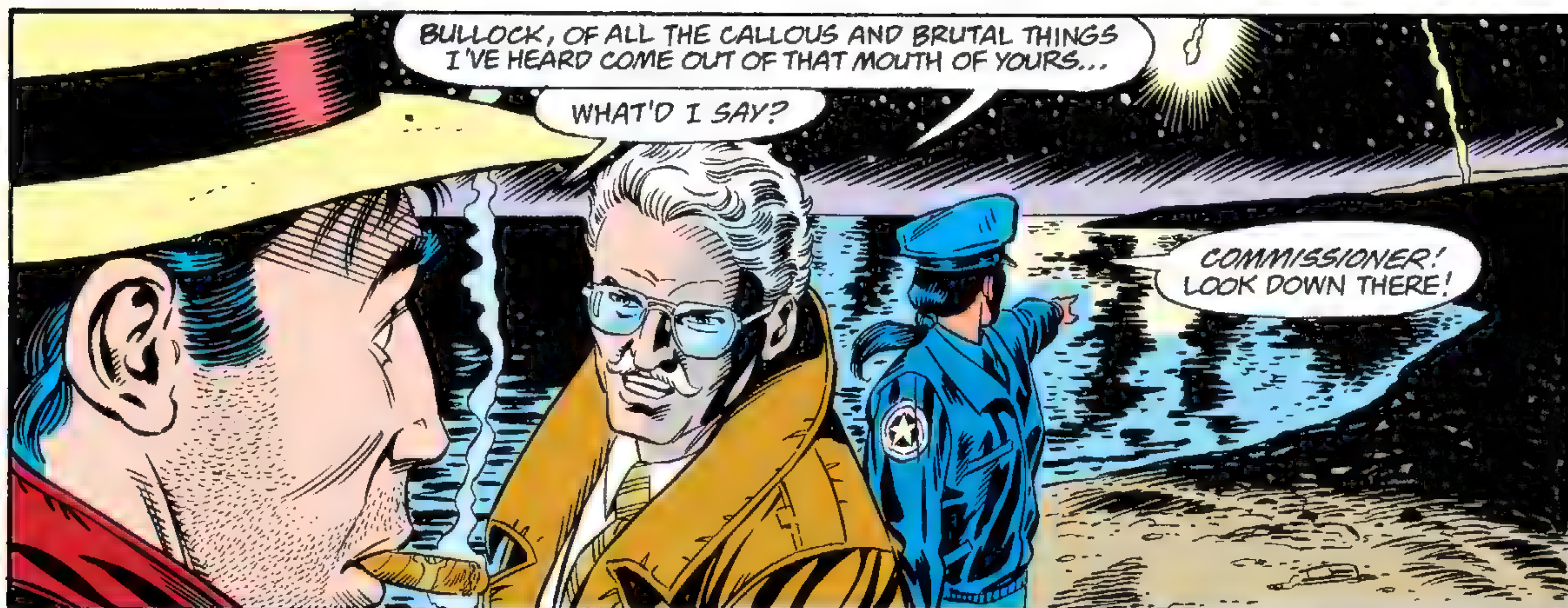
SKRIK SKRIK

BANE.

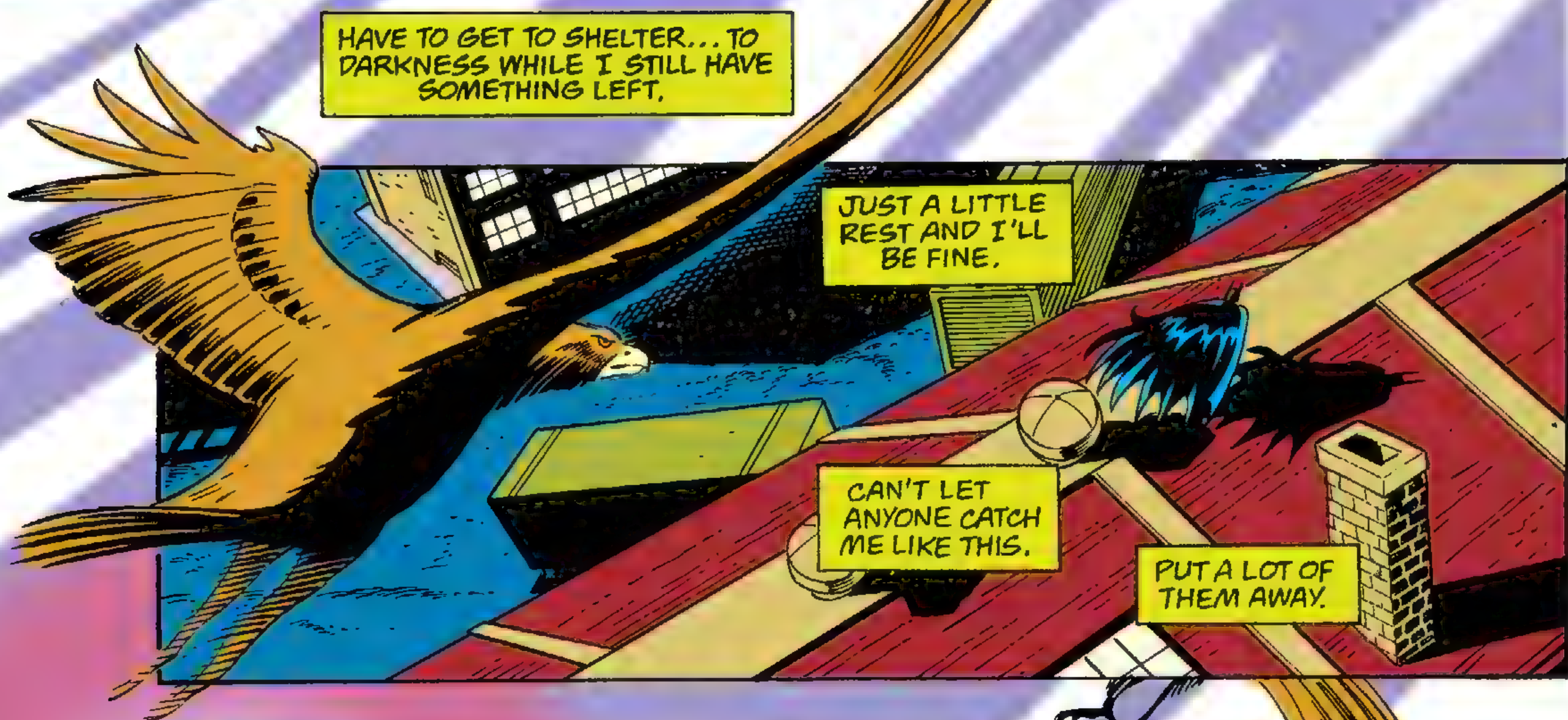
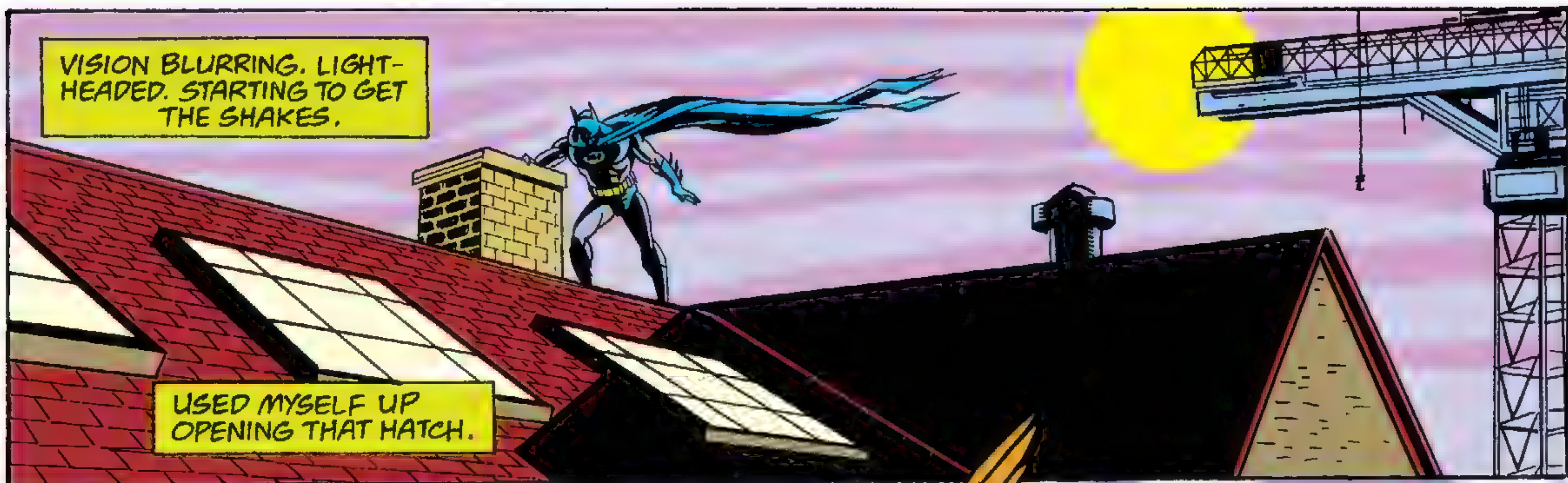




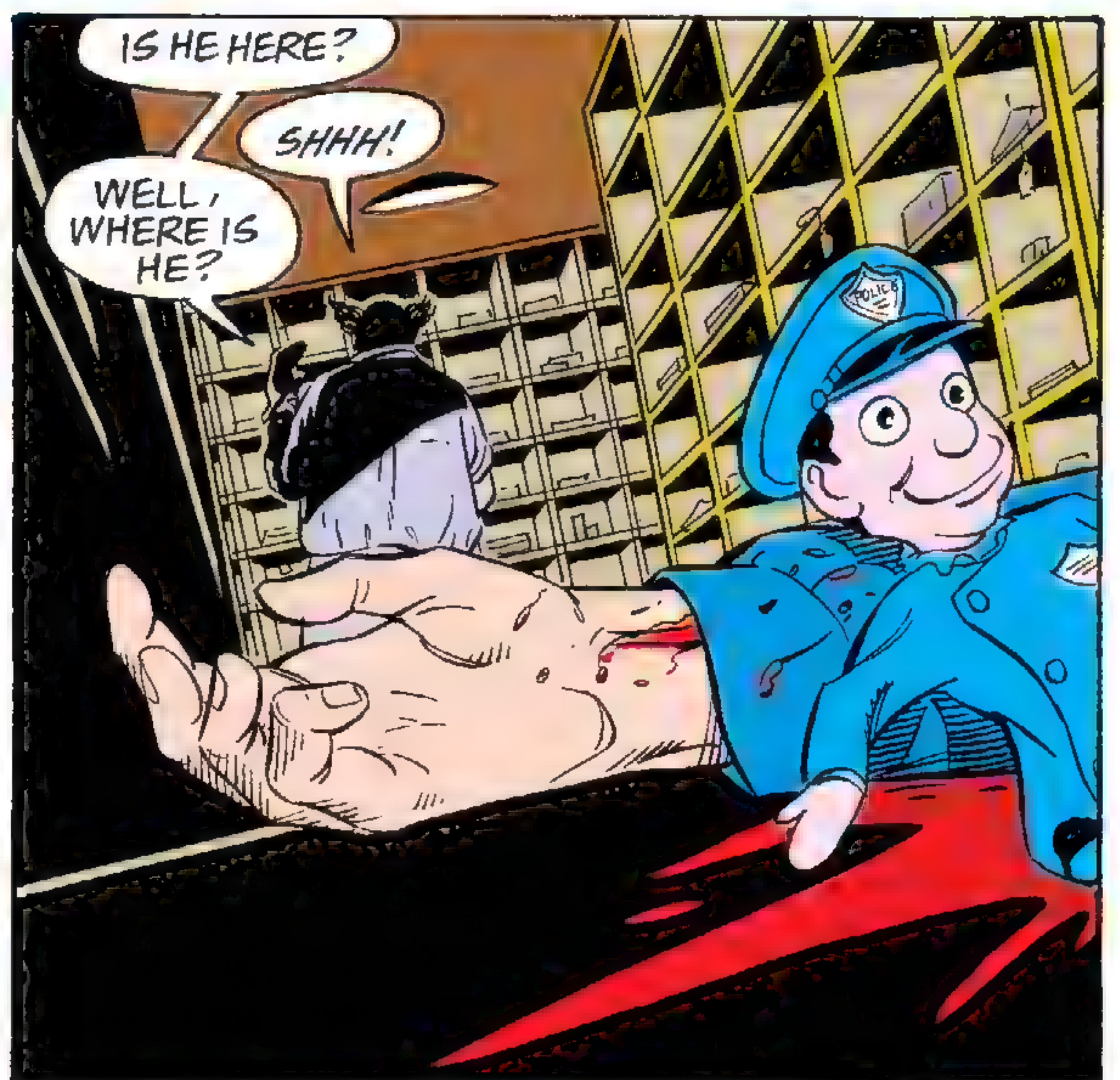
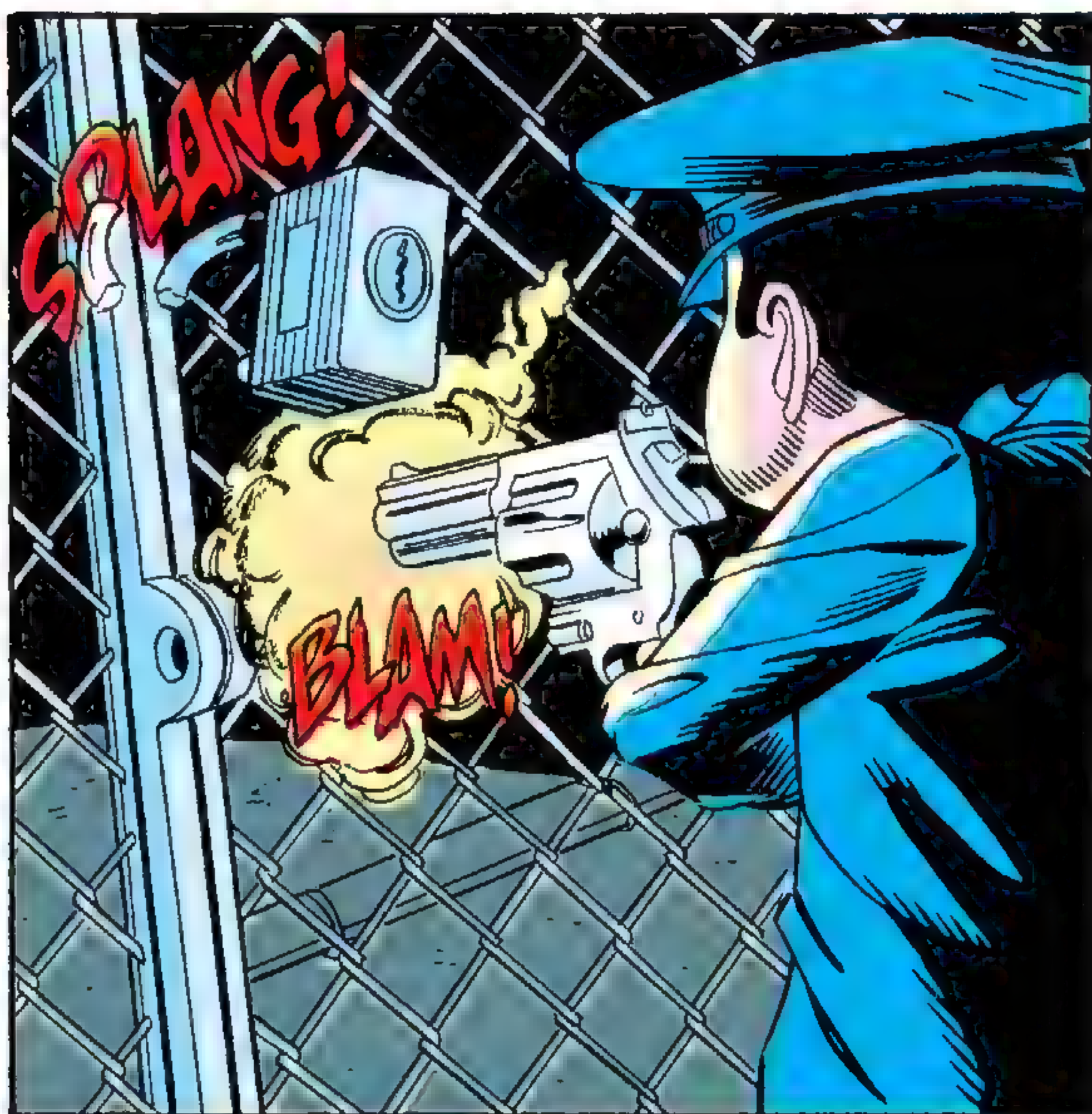
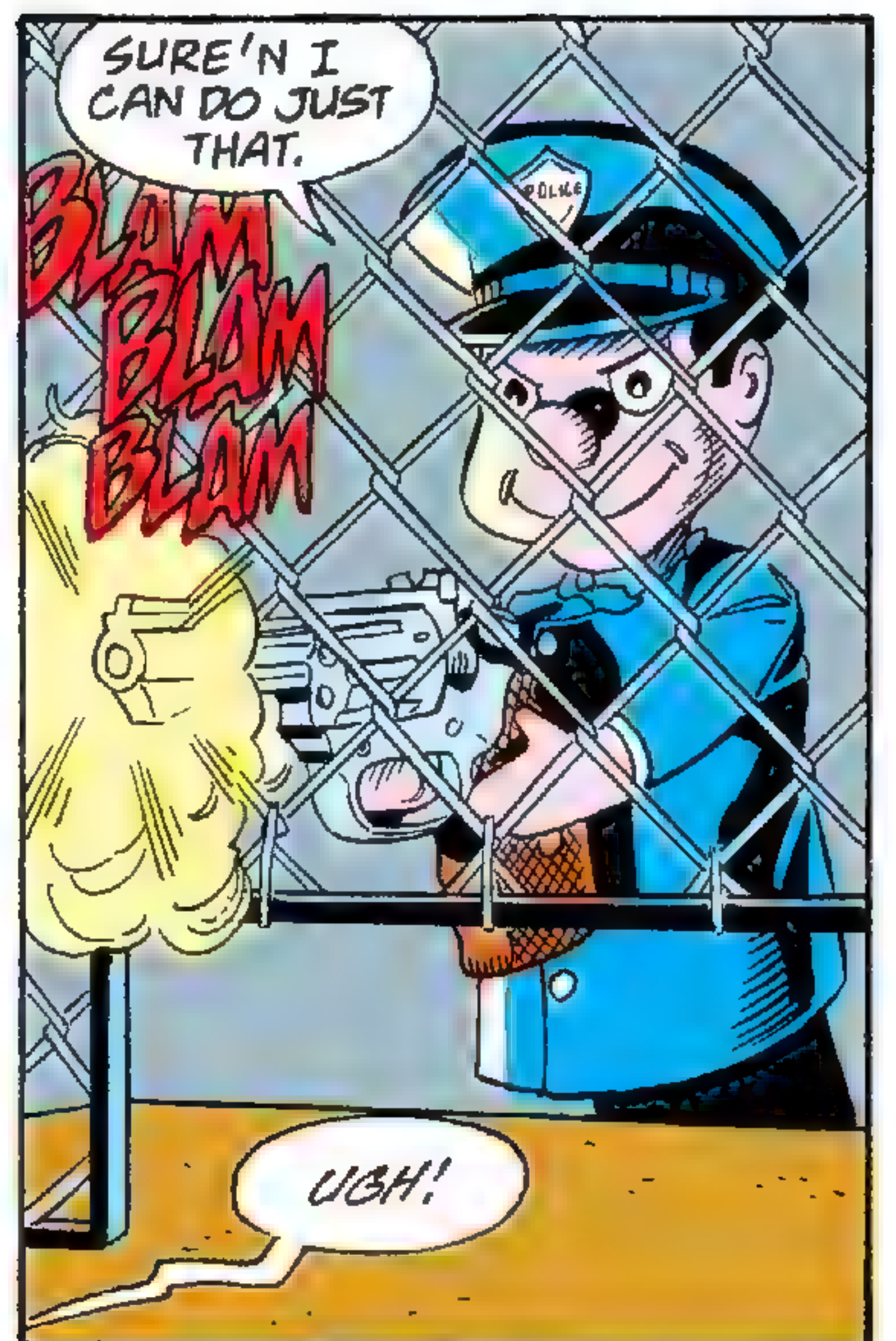














"AW, HE DON'T  
LOOK SO TOUGH."

JUST A FEW MOMENTS'  
REST AND THEN BACK  
TO THE STREETS.

A SOUND.

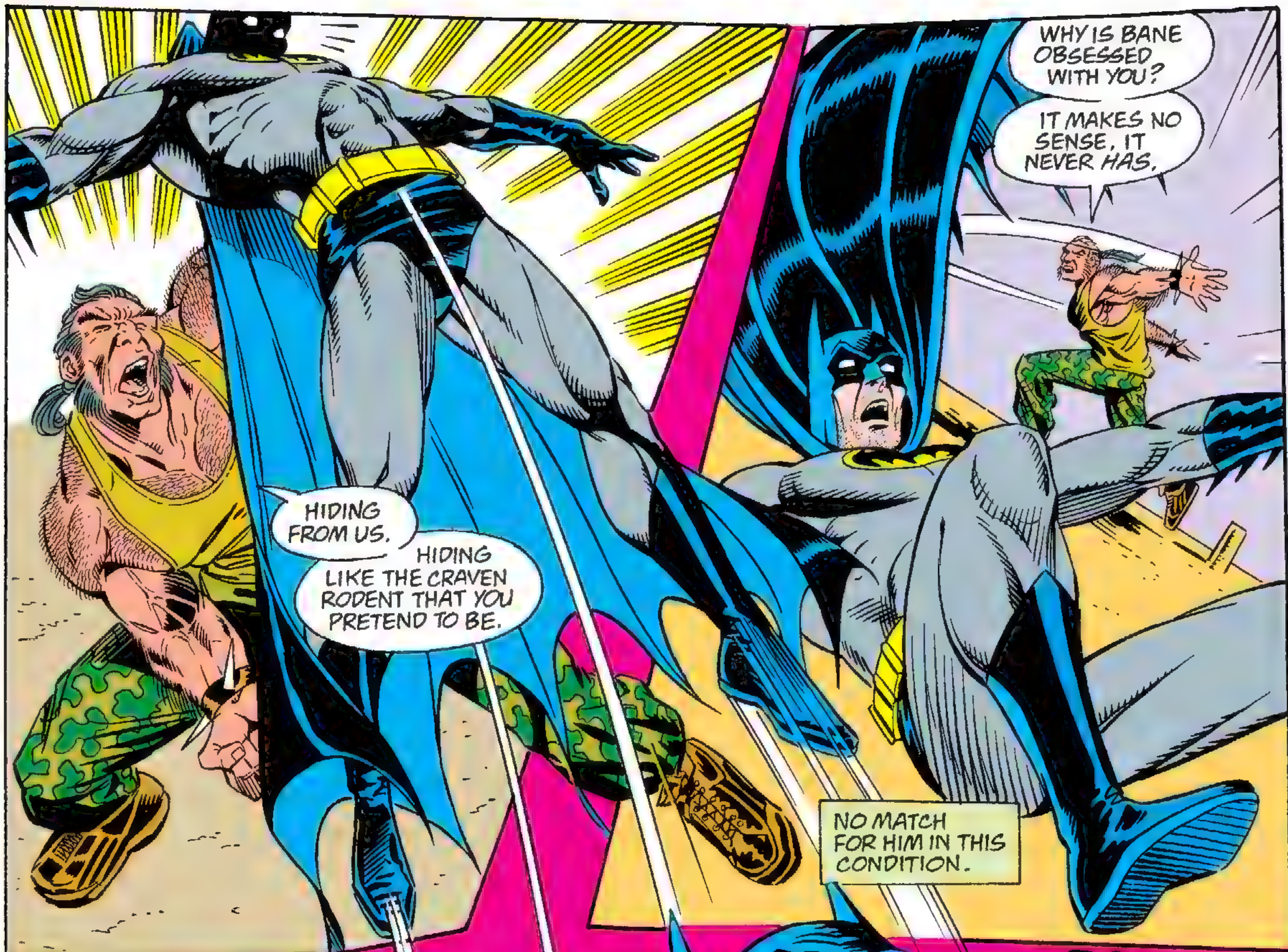
IT STARTLES  
THE BIRDS.

A FALCON'S CRY.

ROBIN SAID ONE OF  
BANE'S MEN IS A  
FALCONER.

COULD THEY BE...?





WHY IS BANE  
OBSESSED  
WITH YOU?

IT MAKES NO  
SENSE, IT  
NEVER HAS.

HIDING  
FROM US.

HIDING  
LIKE THE CRAVEN  
RODENT THAT YOU  
PRETEND TO BE.

NO MATCH  
FOR HIM IN THIS  
CONDITION.



HAVE TO RELY  
ON MY ARSENAL.

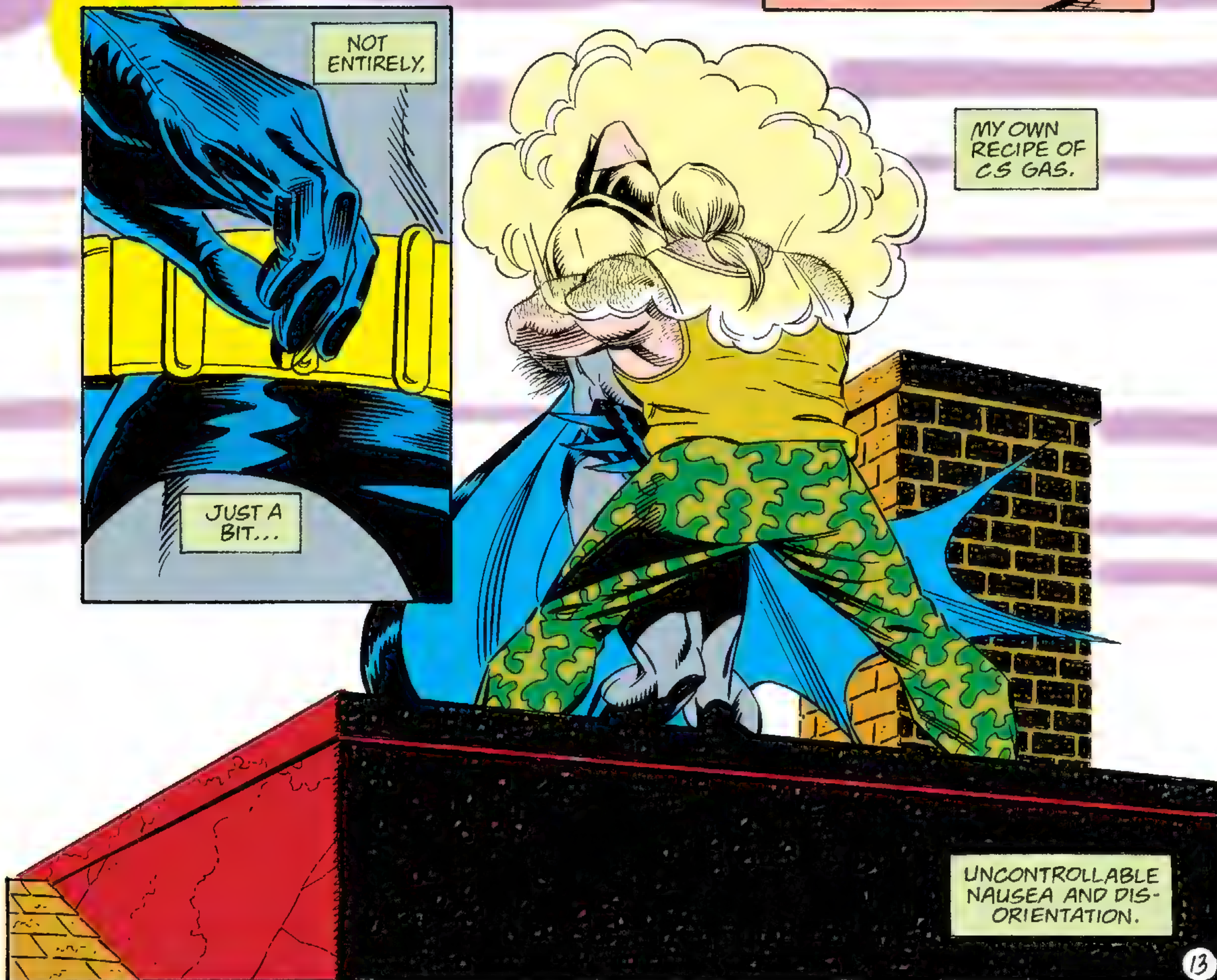
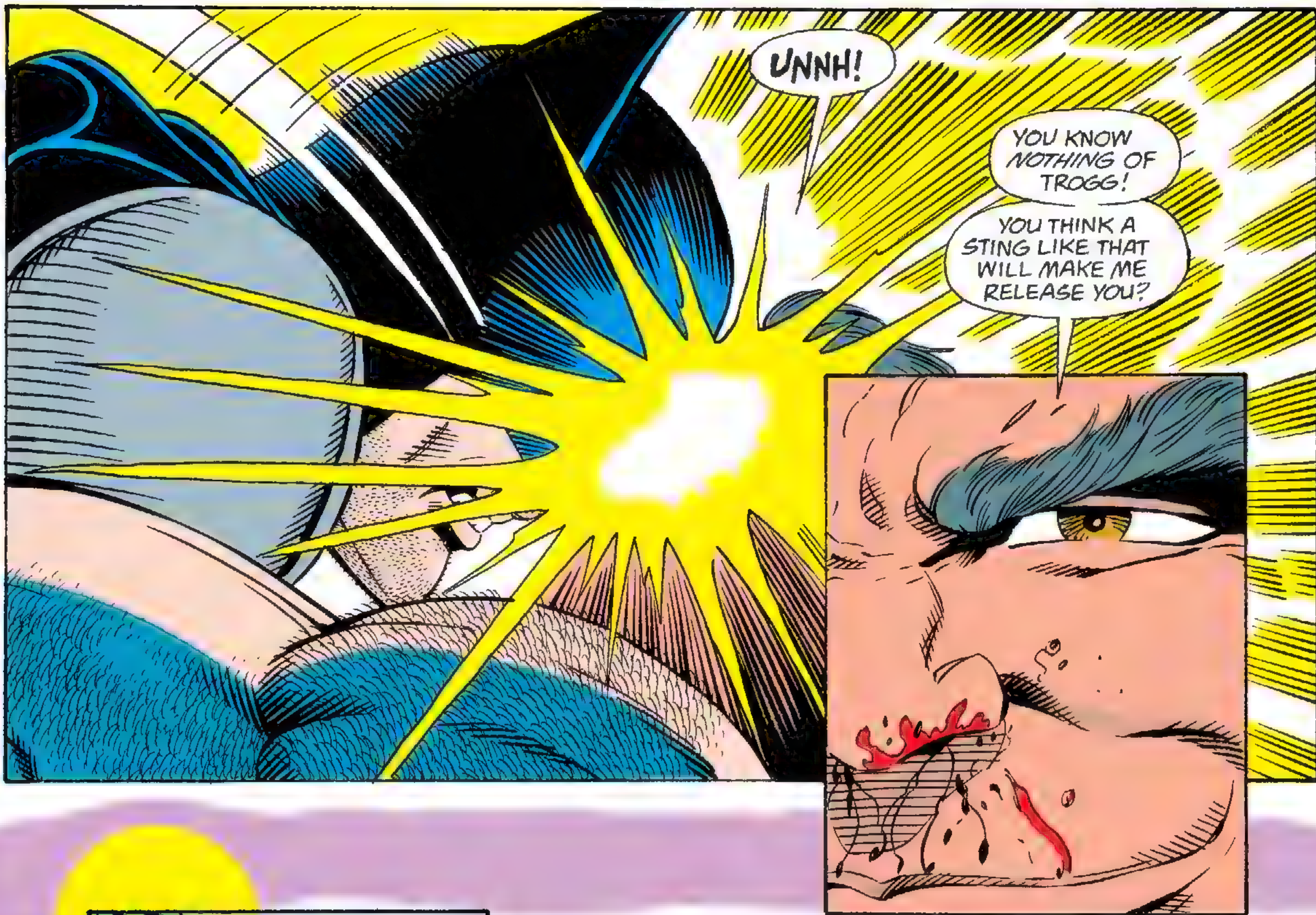
TROGG WILL  
SHOW HIM THAT  
YOU ARE BENEATH  
HIS CONSIDERATION.



WHEN I  
CRUSH THE LIFE  
FROM YOU!

A WET SNAP IN  
MY SIDE, HAS TO  
BE A RIB.

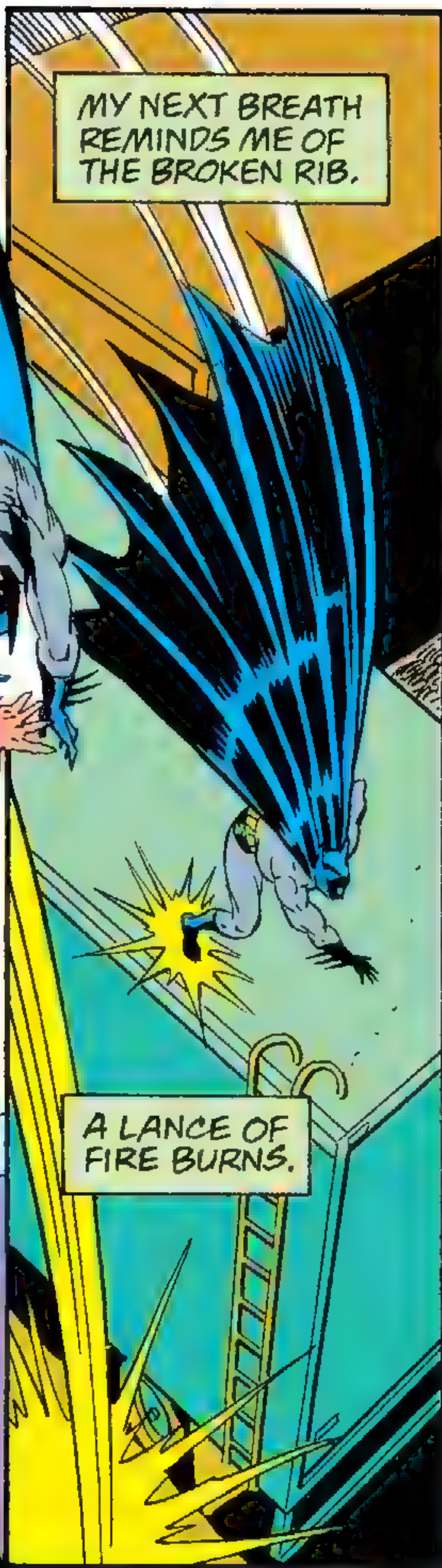






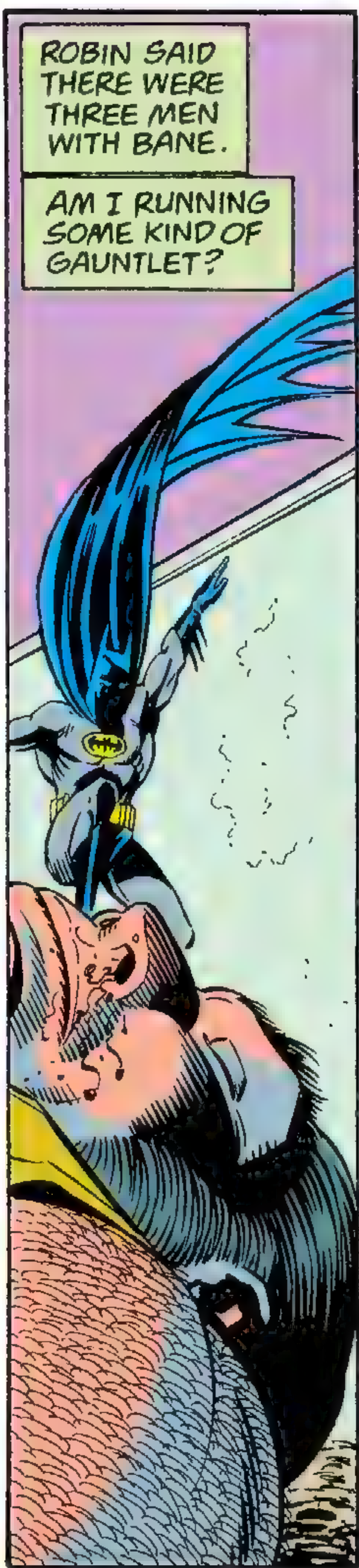


TROGG LAUGHED  
IN A LUNGFUL.



MY NEXT BREATH  
REMINDS ME OF  
THE BROKEN RIB.

A LANCE OF  
FIRE BURNS.



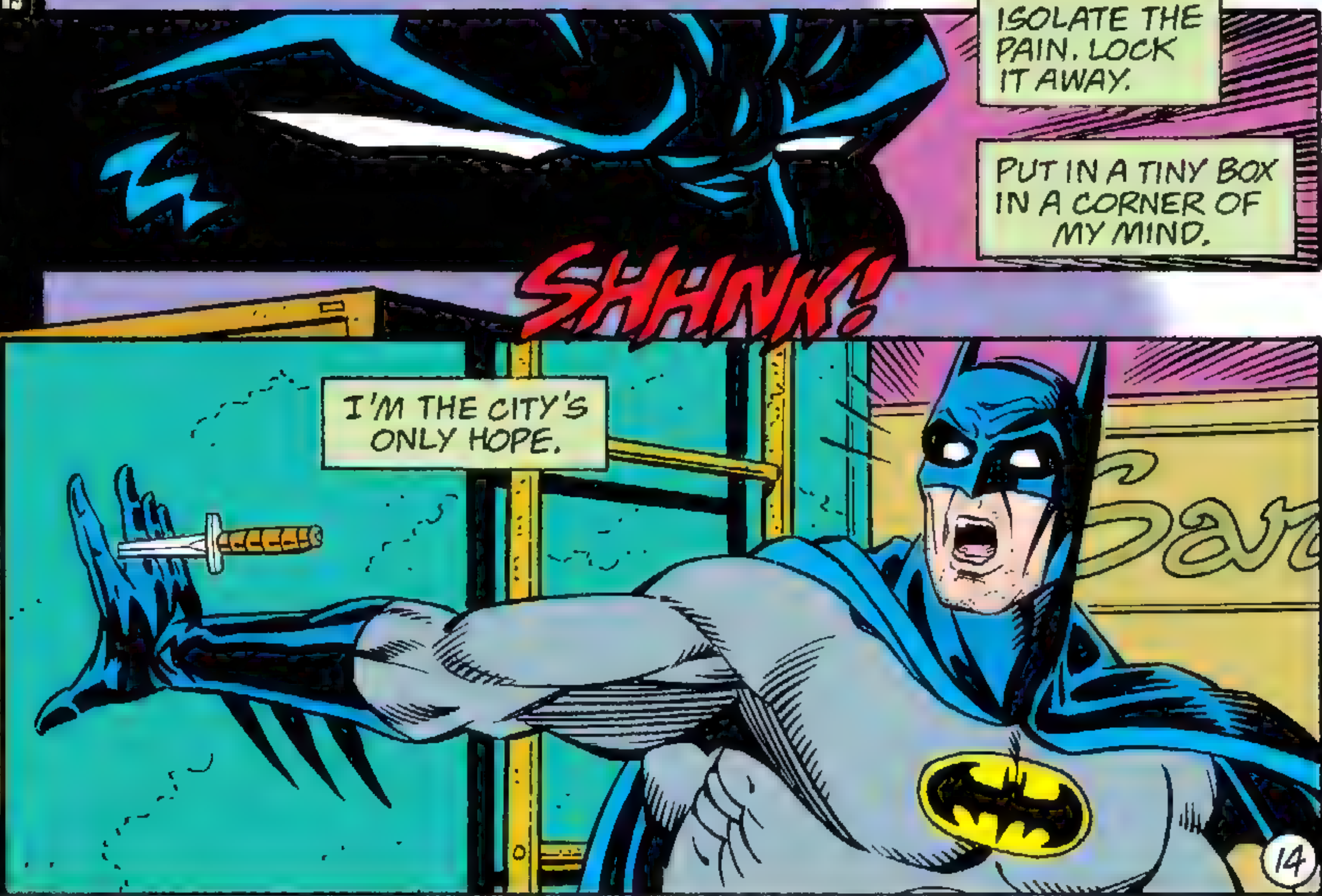
ROBIN SAID  
THERE WERE  
THREE MEN  
WITH BANE.

AM I RUNNING  
SOME KIND OF  
GAUNTLET?



HEAD  
SWIMMING.

PAIN IN MY SIDE  
GETTING SHARPER.



ISOLATE THE  
PAIN. LOCK  
IT AWAY.

PUT IN A TINY BOX  
IN A CORNER OF  
MY MIND.

**SHHINK!**

I'M THE CITY'S  
ONLY HOPE.

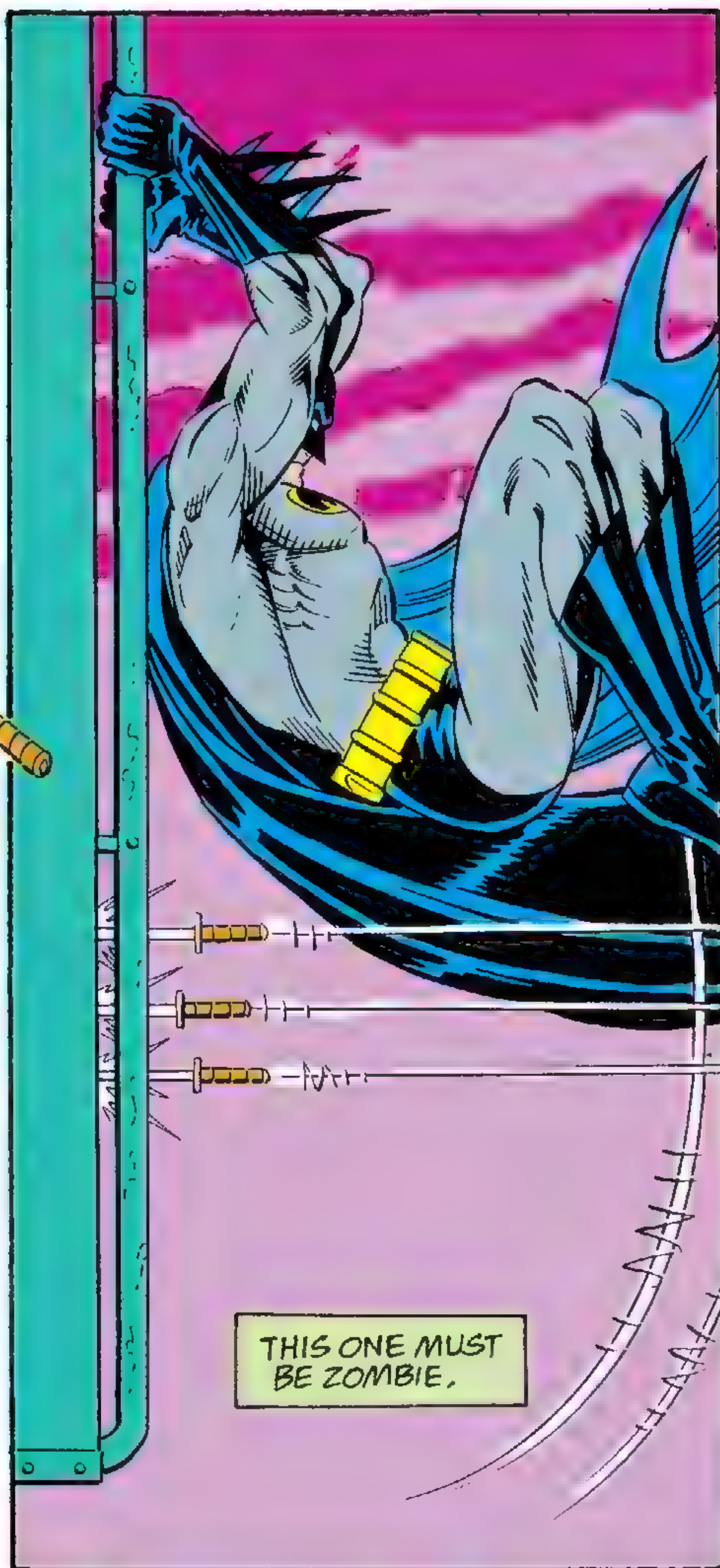




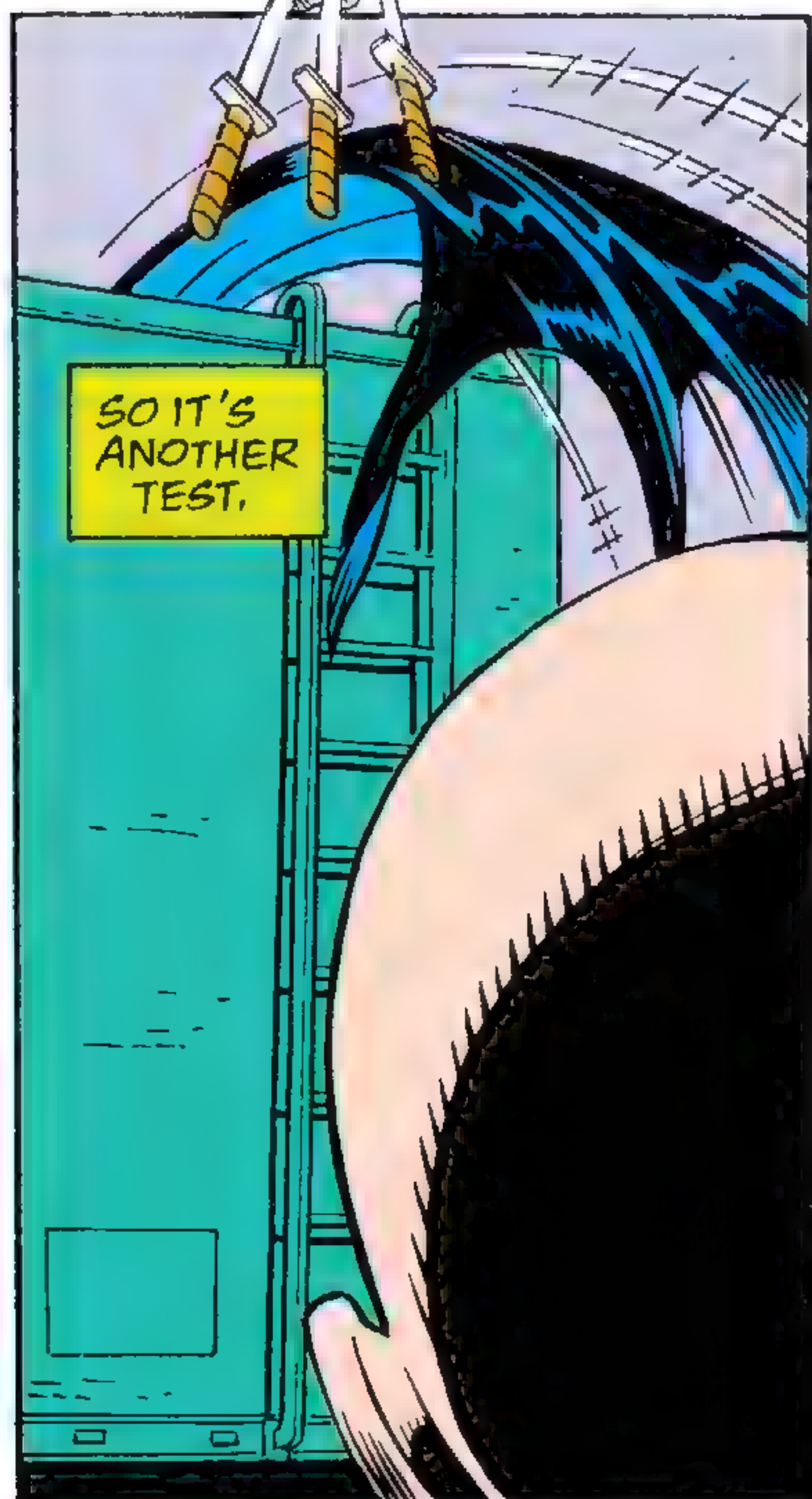
I'M ALL THAT STANDS  
BETWEEN THESE  
MONSTERS AND  
GOTHAM.

IT TAKES AN  
EXCELLENT EYE TO  
MISS THAT  
ACCURATELY.

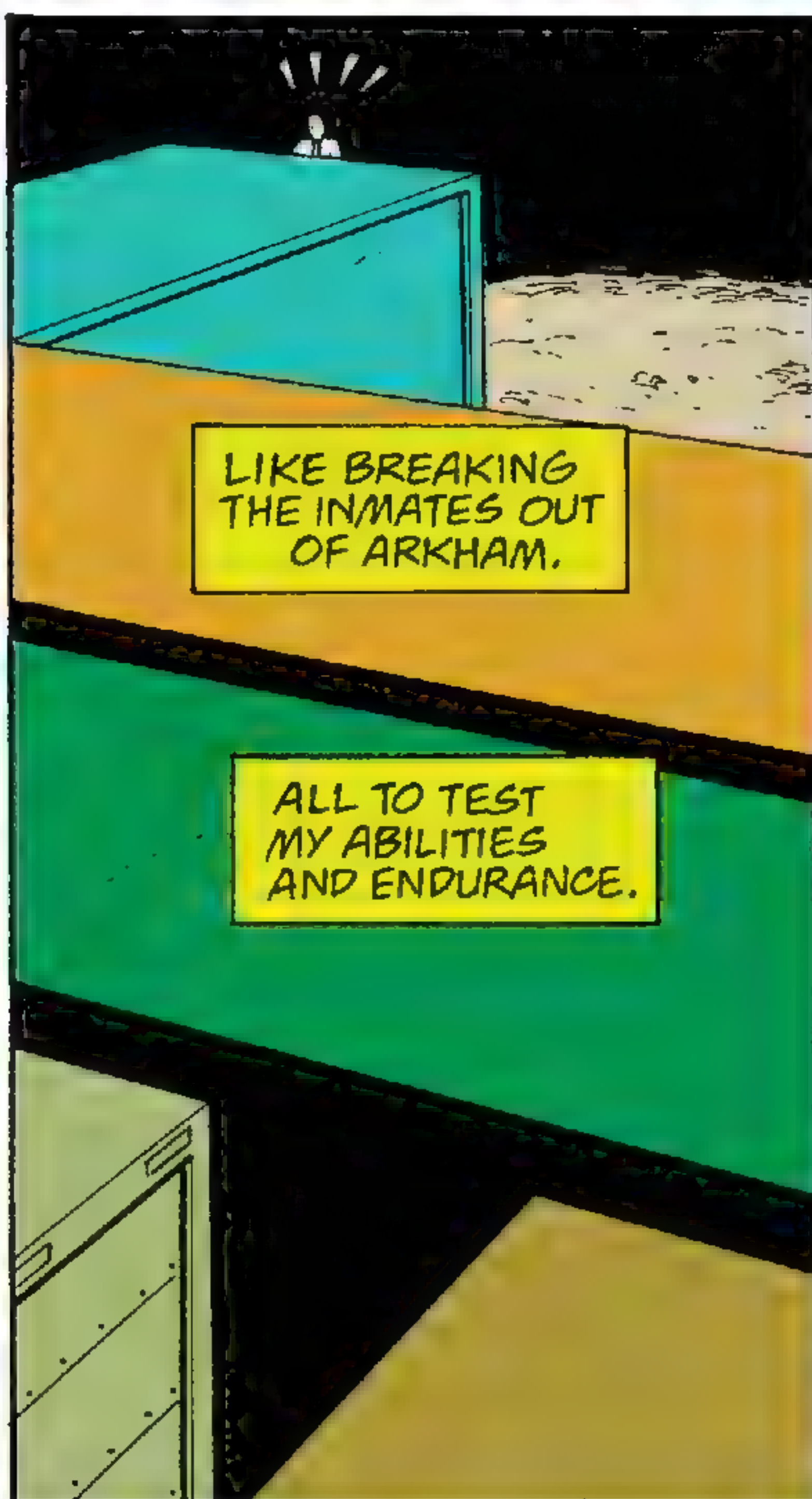
I JUST WANTED YOU  
TO KNOW THAT I DO  
NOT RELY ON BRUTE  
STRENGTH.



THIS ONE MUST  
BE ZOMBIE.



SO IT'S  
ANOTHER  
TEST.



LIKE BREAKING  
THE INMATES OUT  
OF ARKHAM.

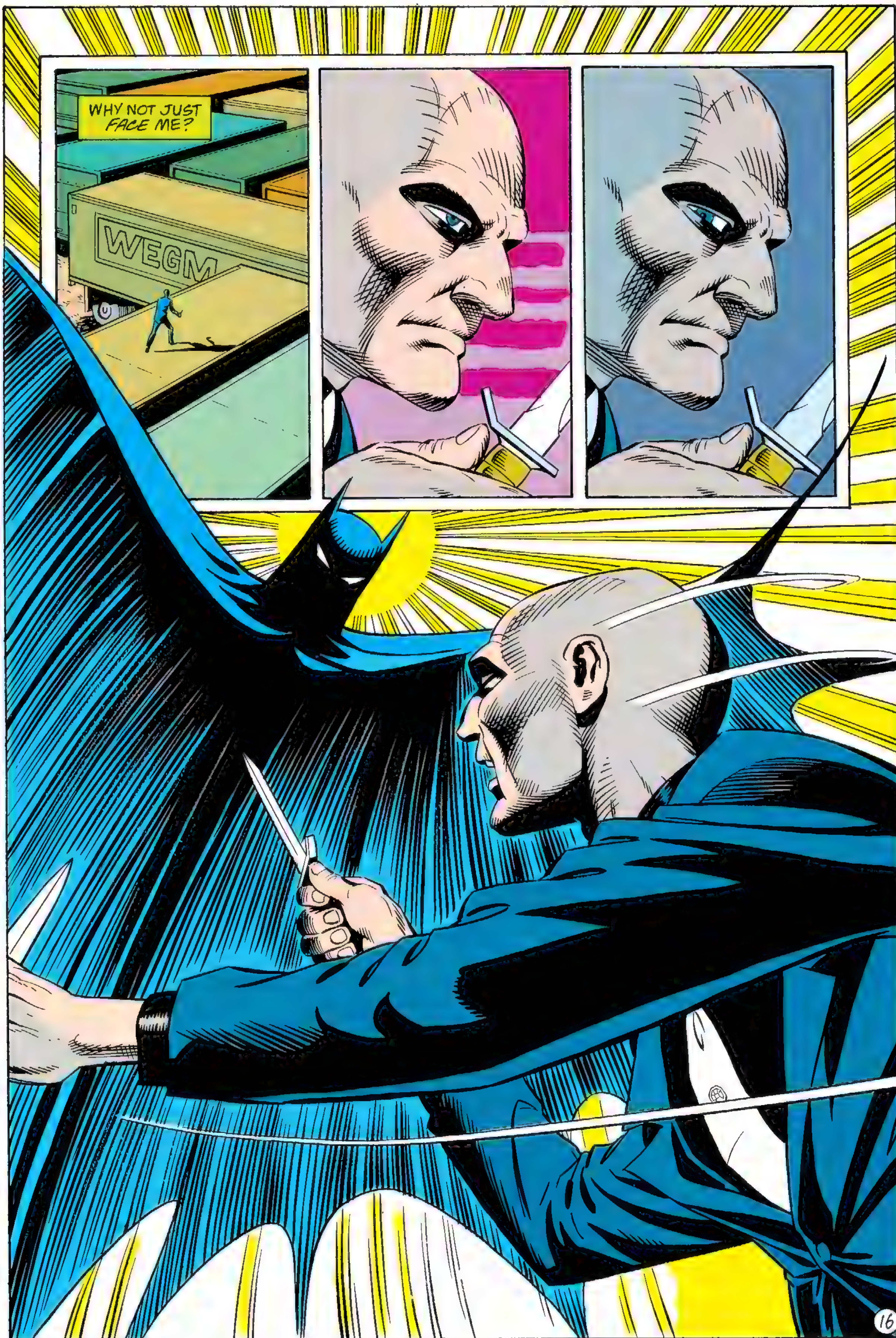
ALL TO TEST  
MY ABILITIES  
AND ENDURANCE.



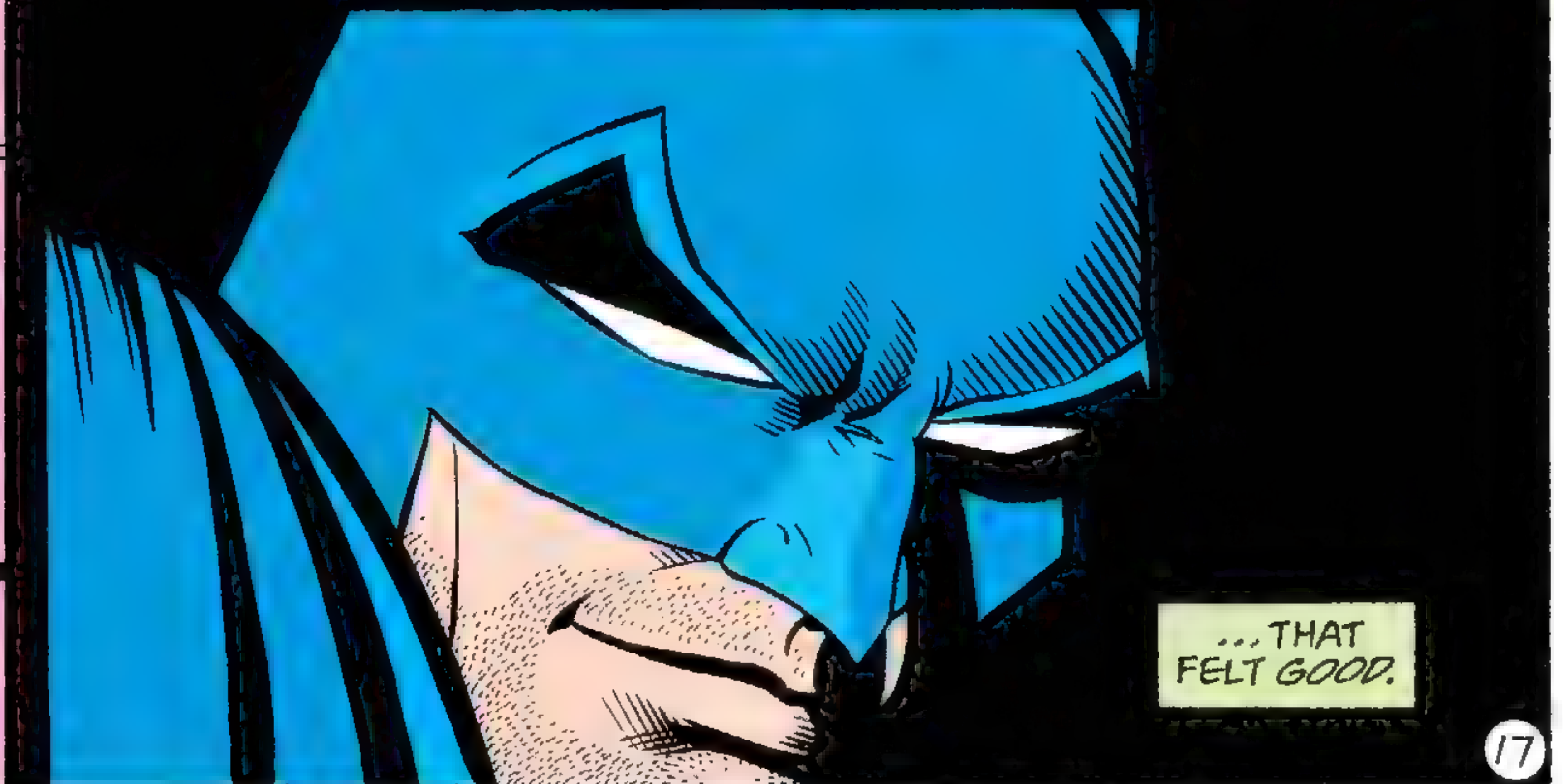
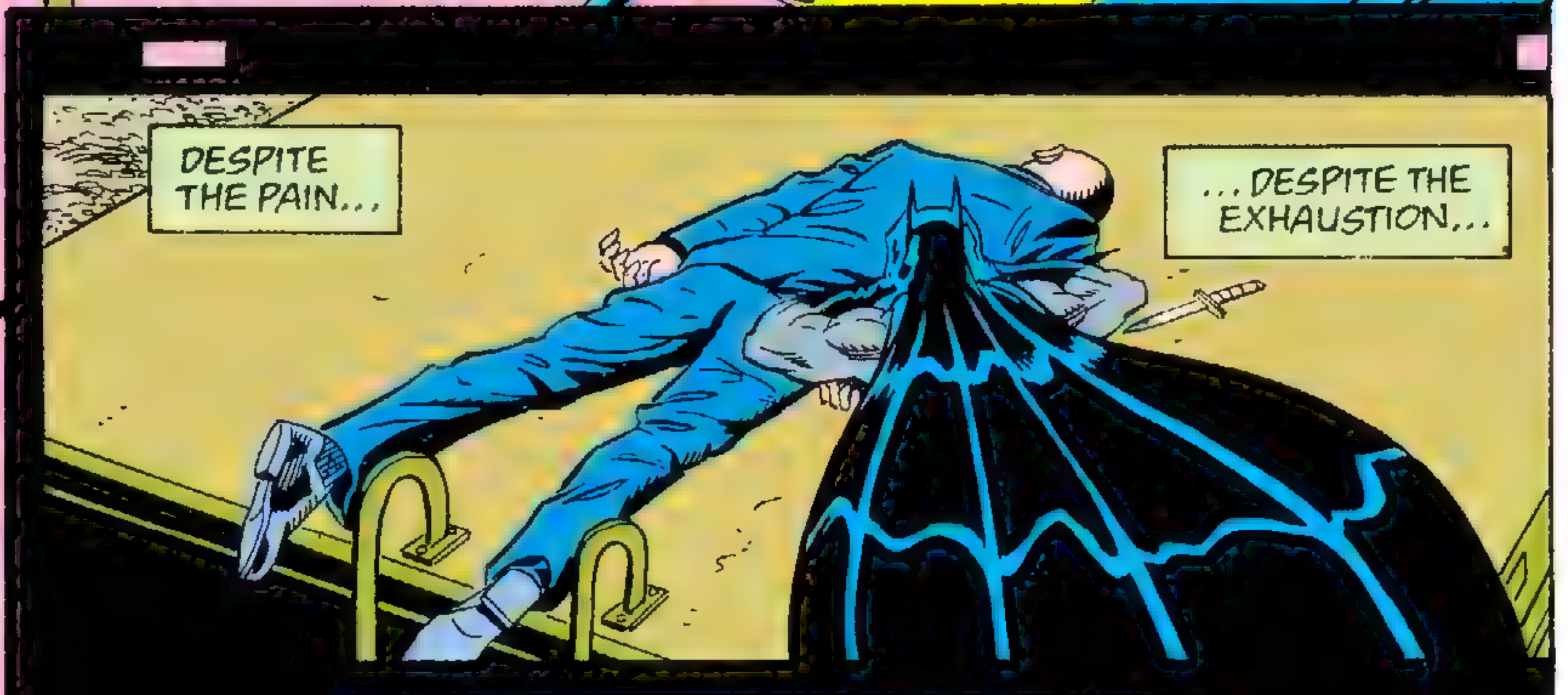
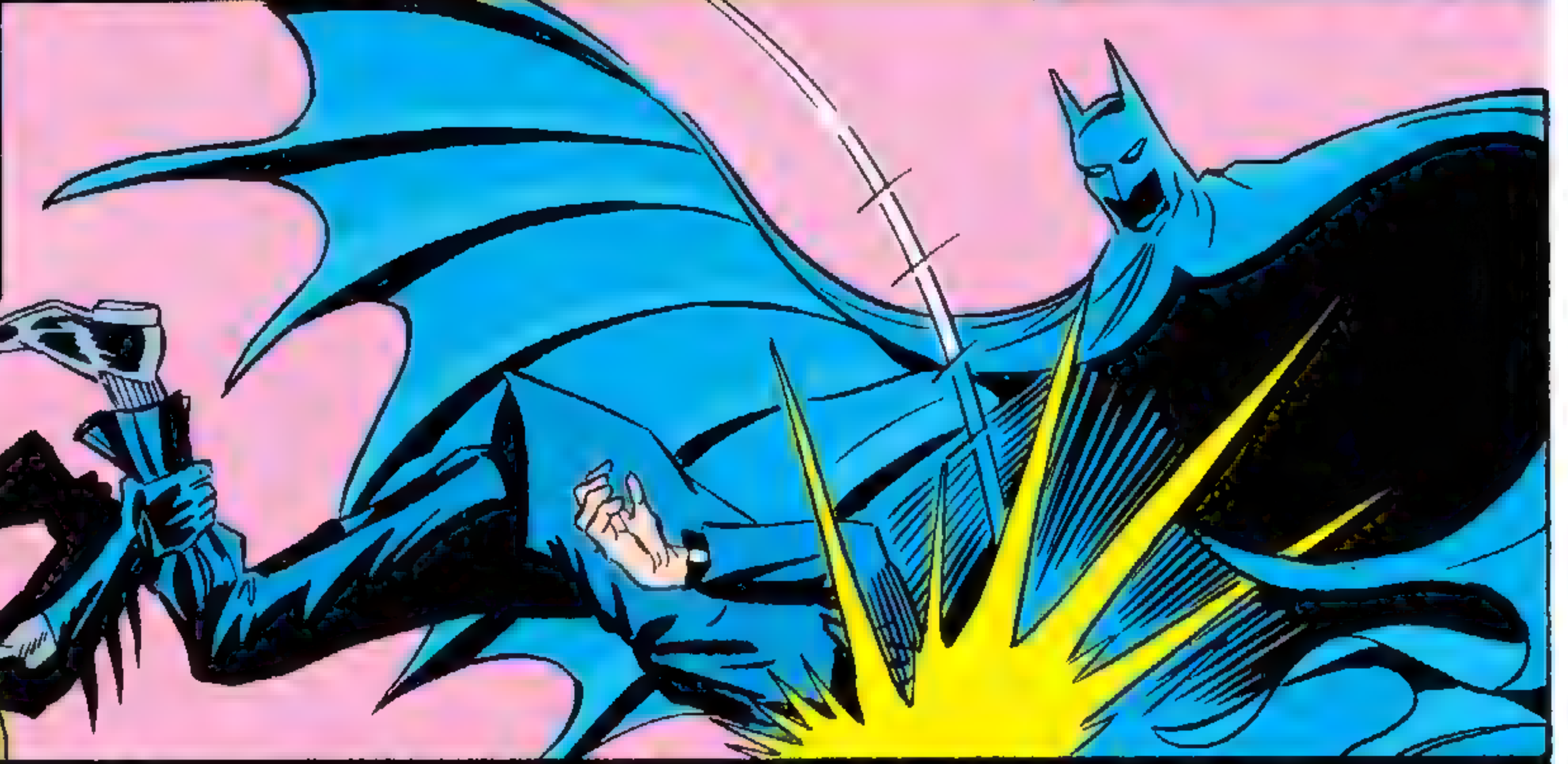
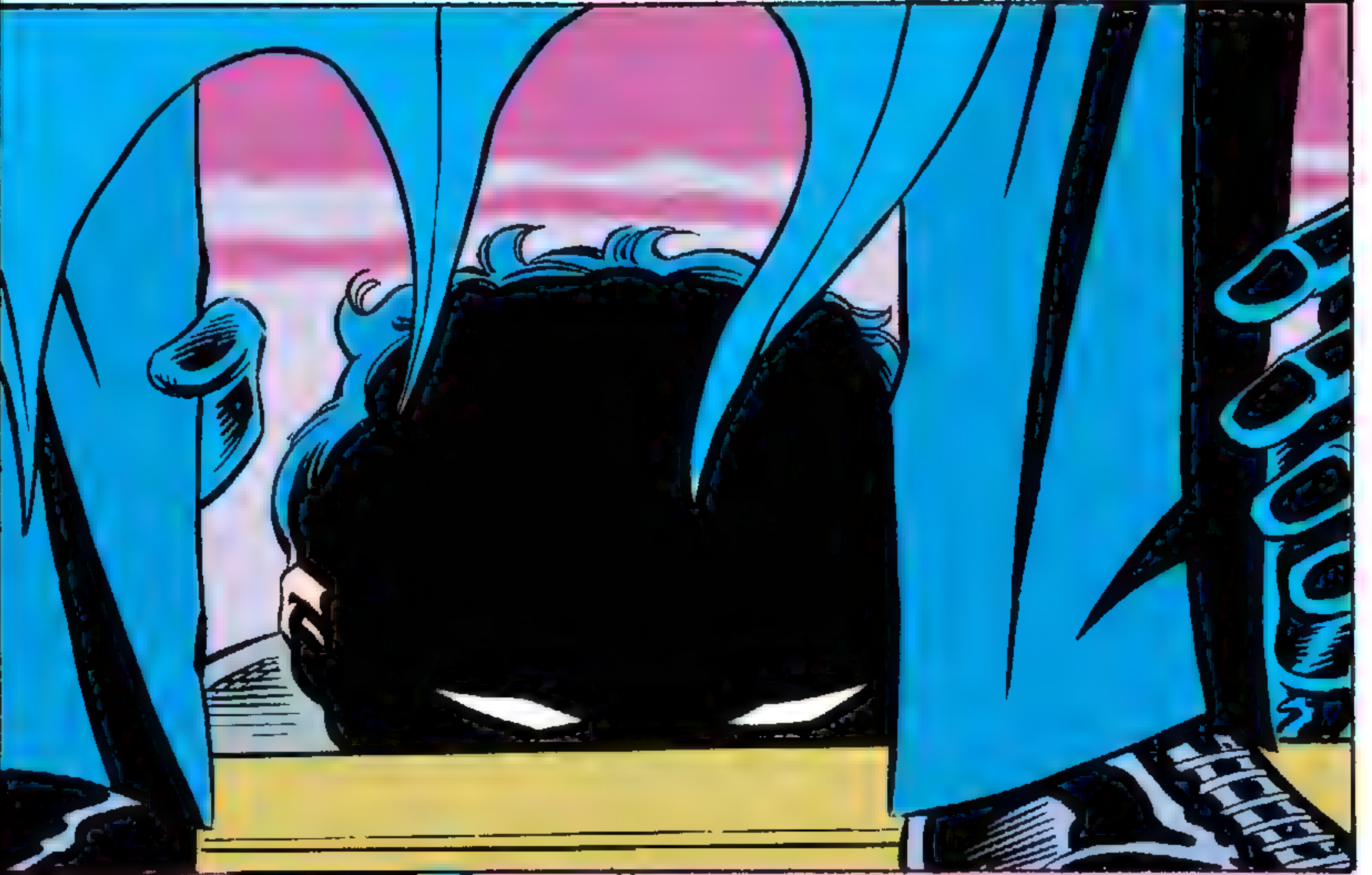
AS THOUGH  
BANE WERE  
STUDYING ME.

TO WHAT  
END?

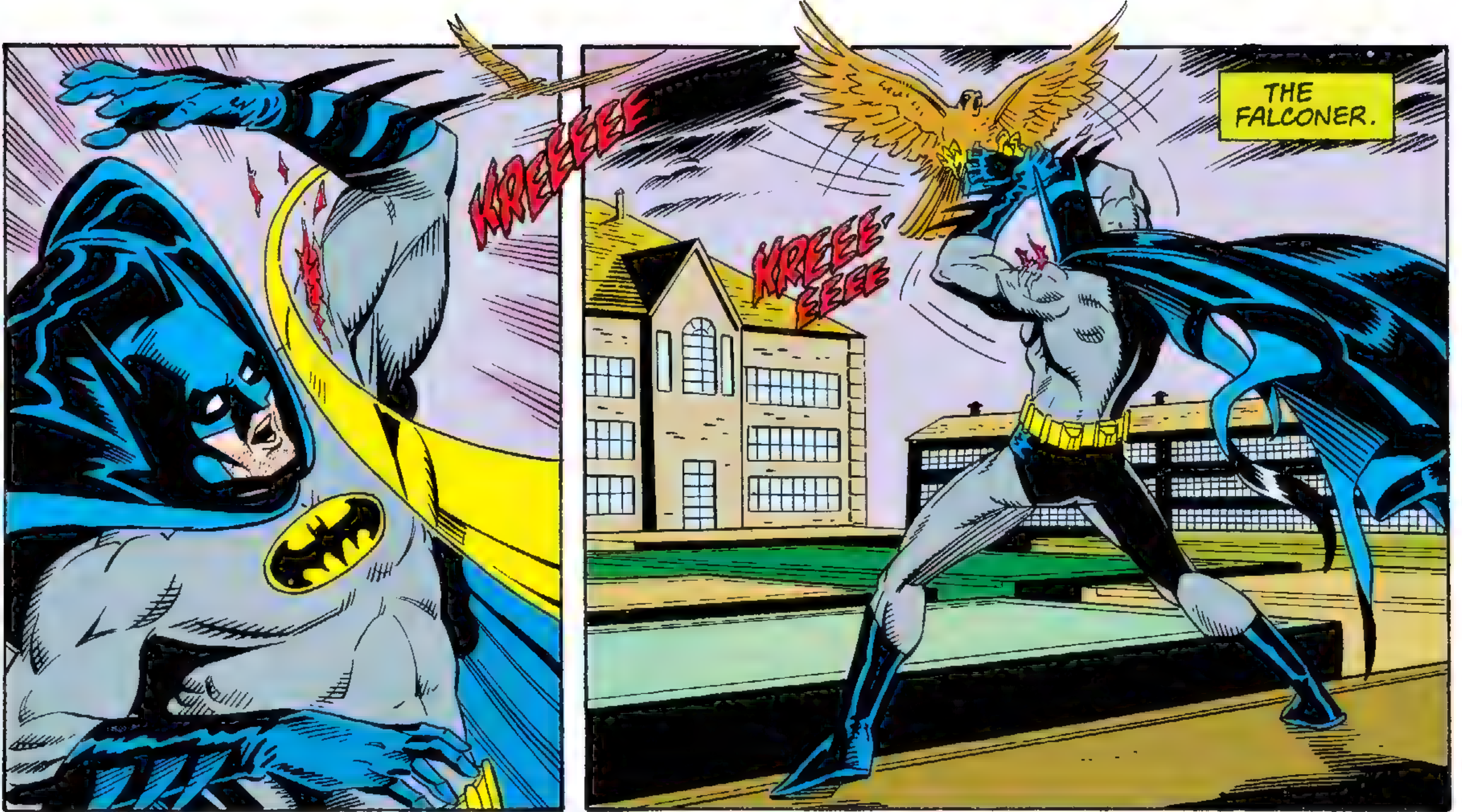




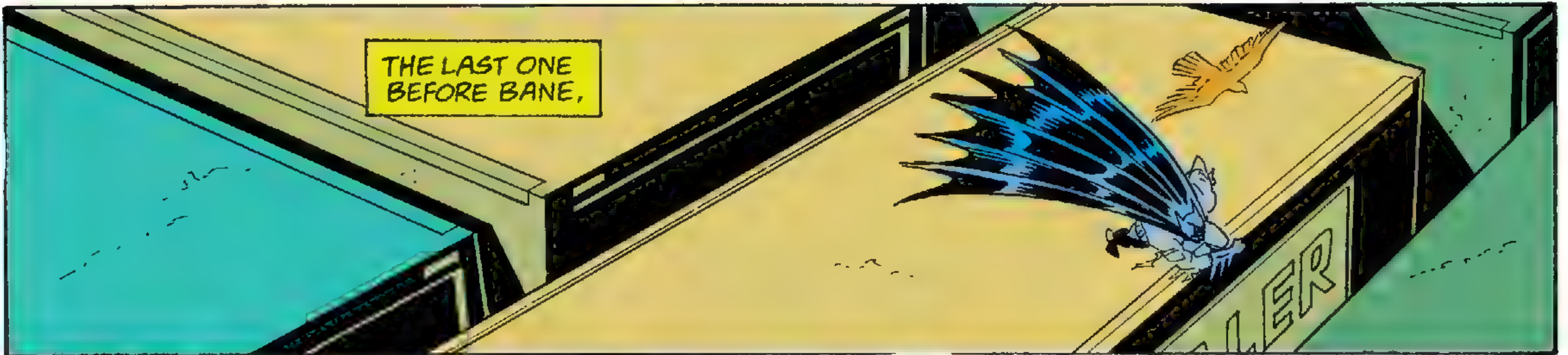




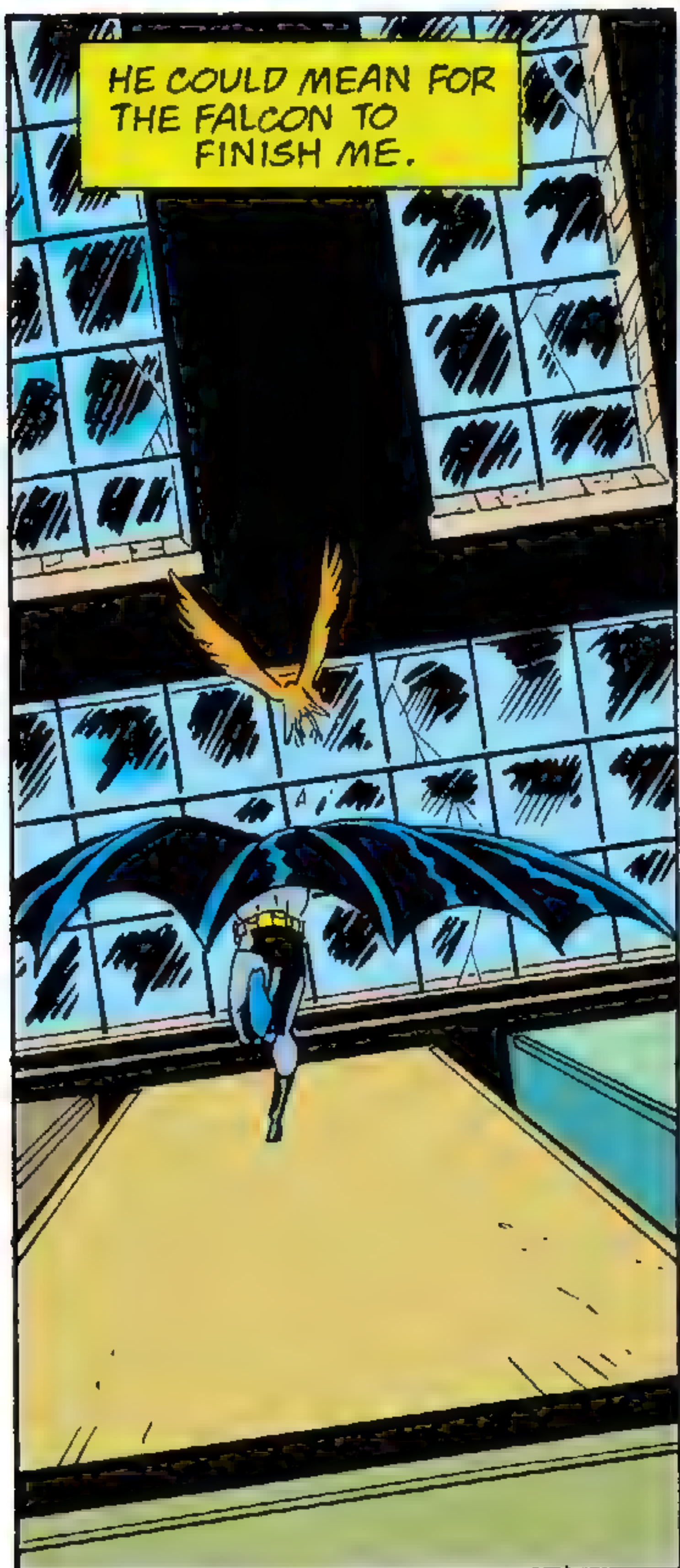




THE FALCONER.



THE LAST ONE BEFORE BANE,



HE COULD MEAN FOR THE FALCON TO FINISH ME.

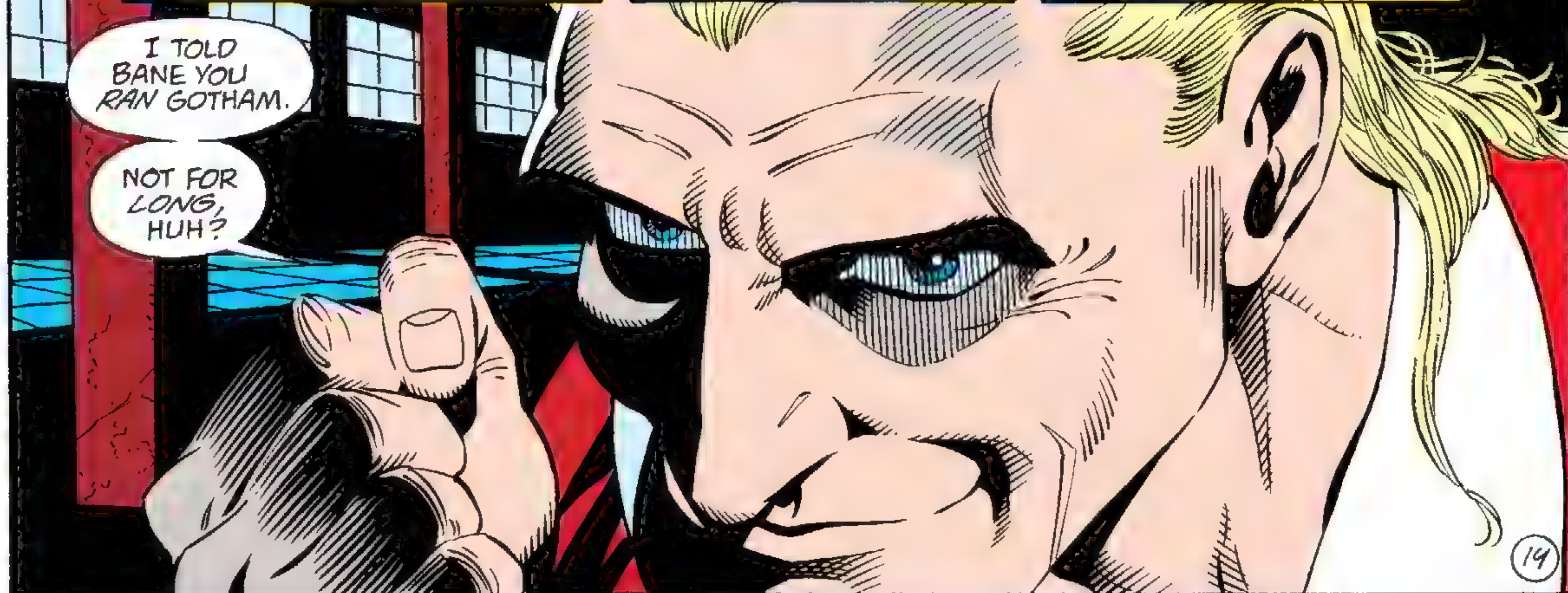
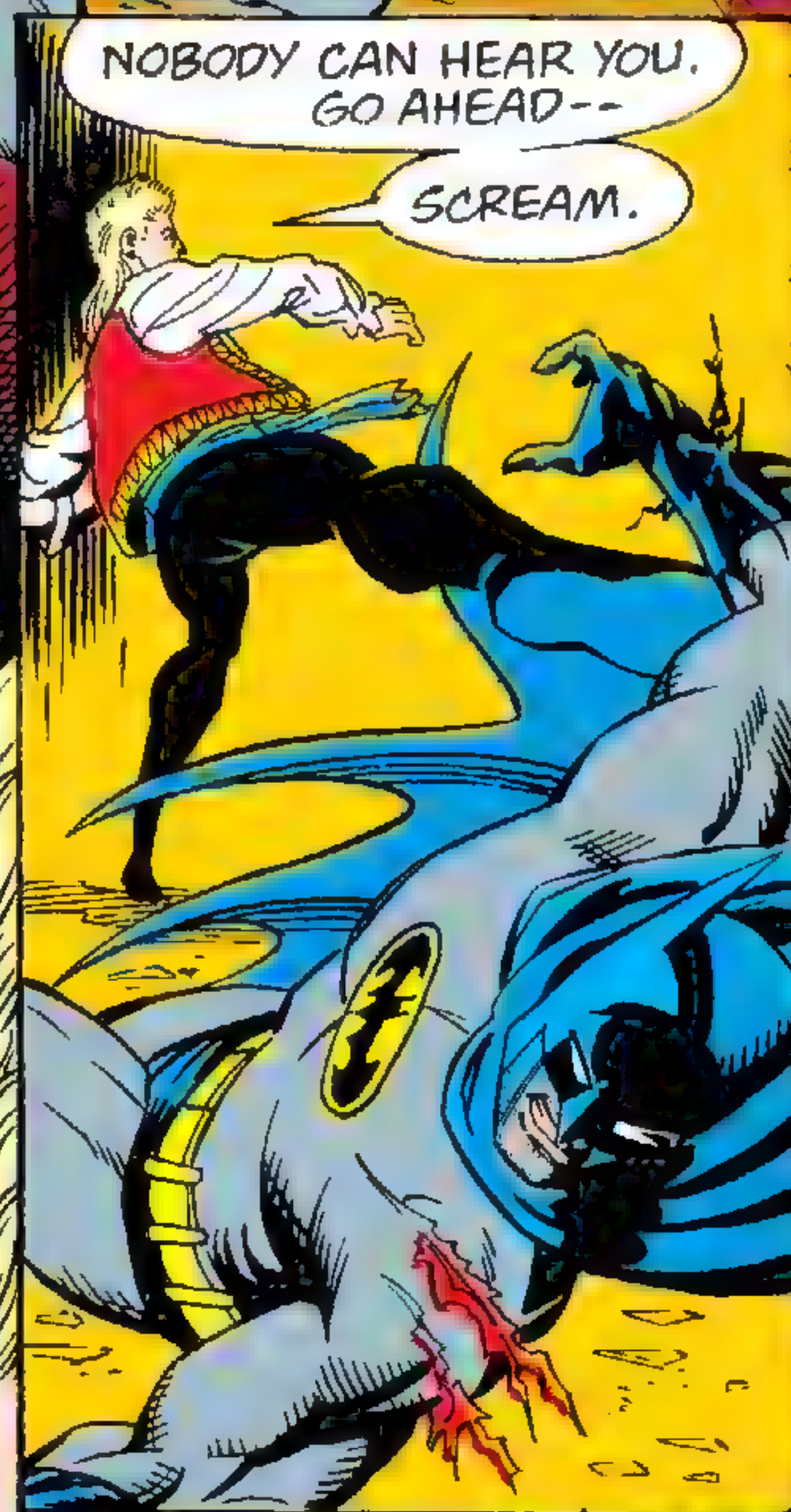
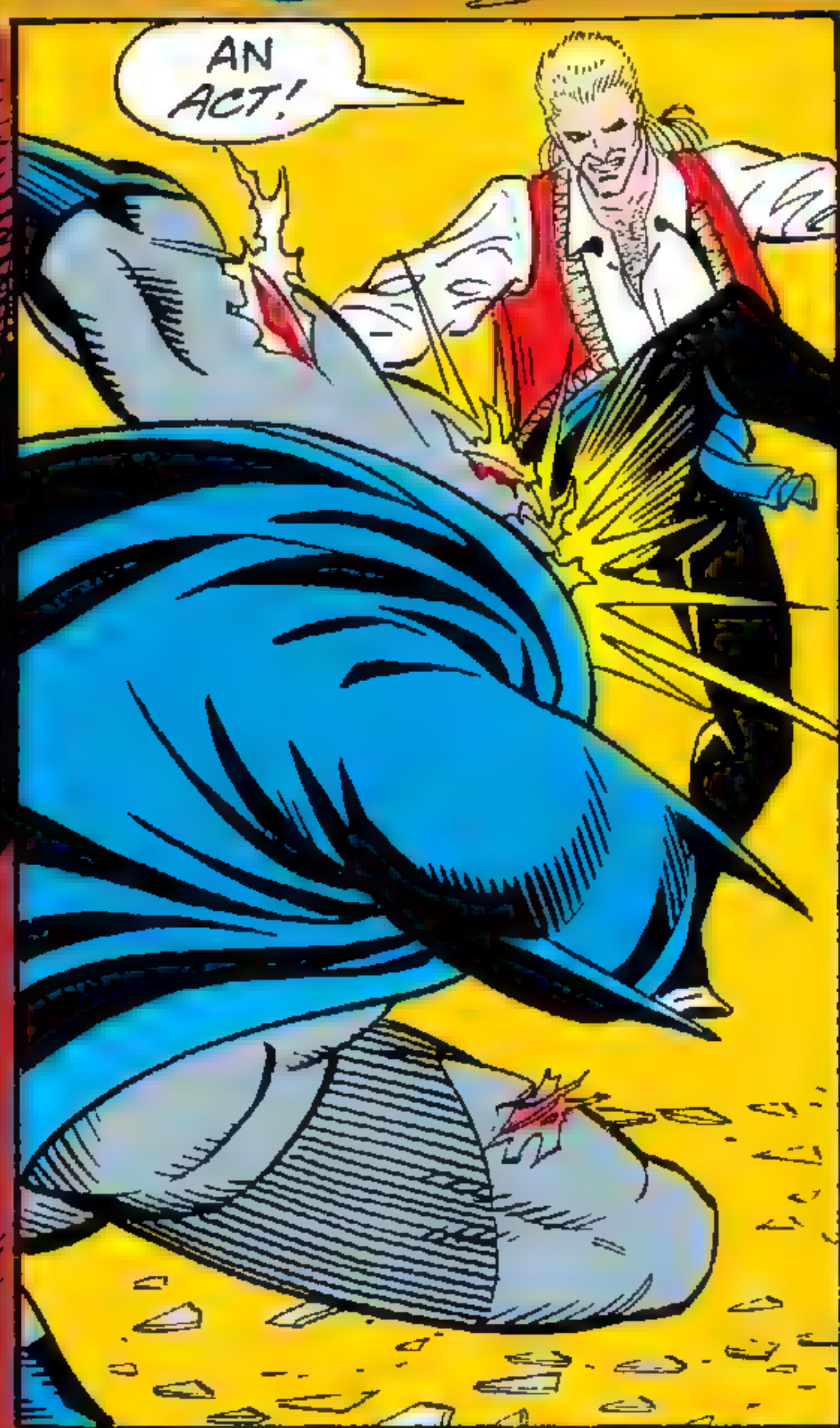
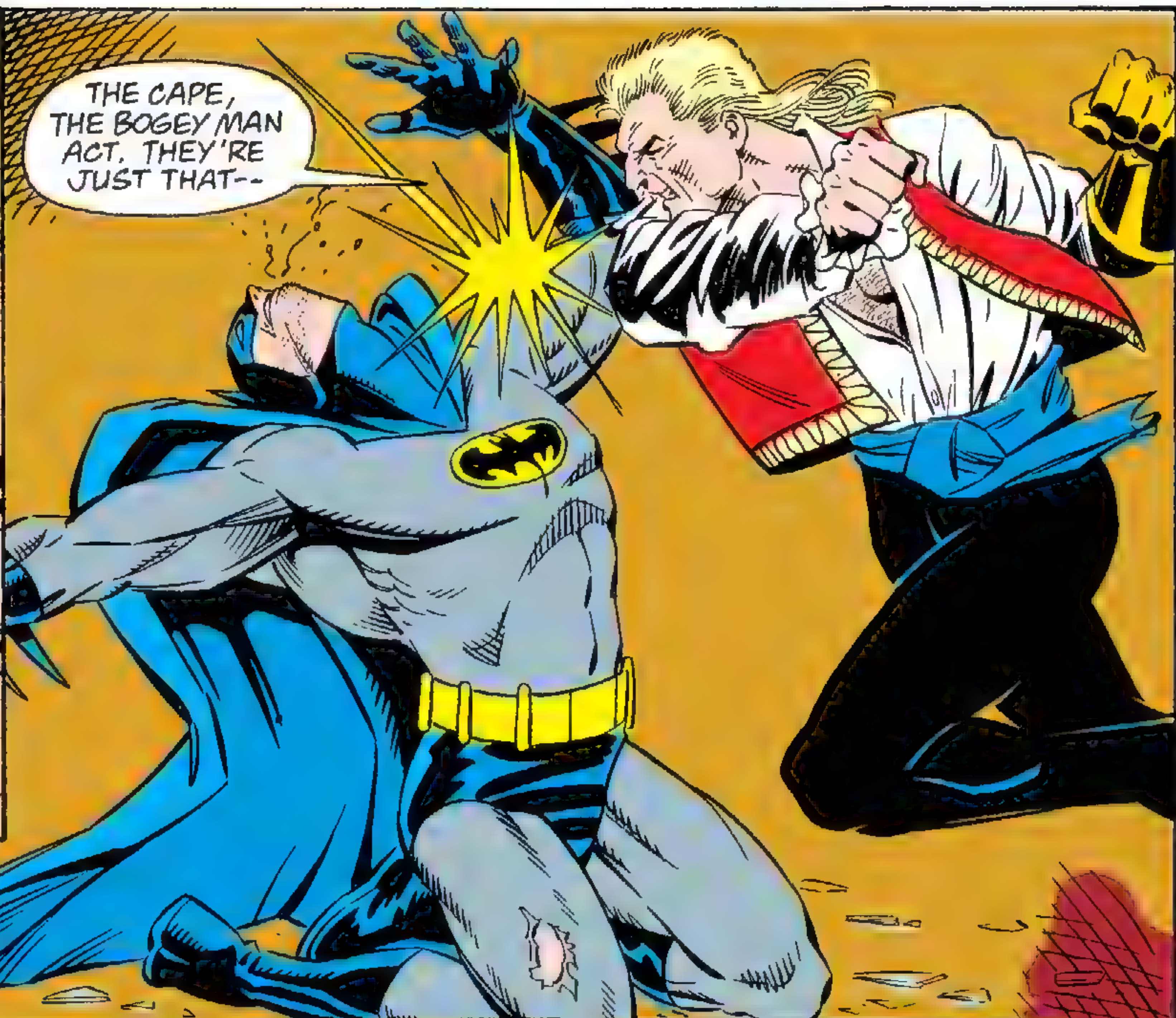
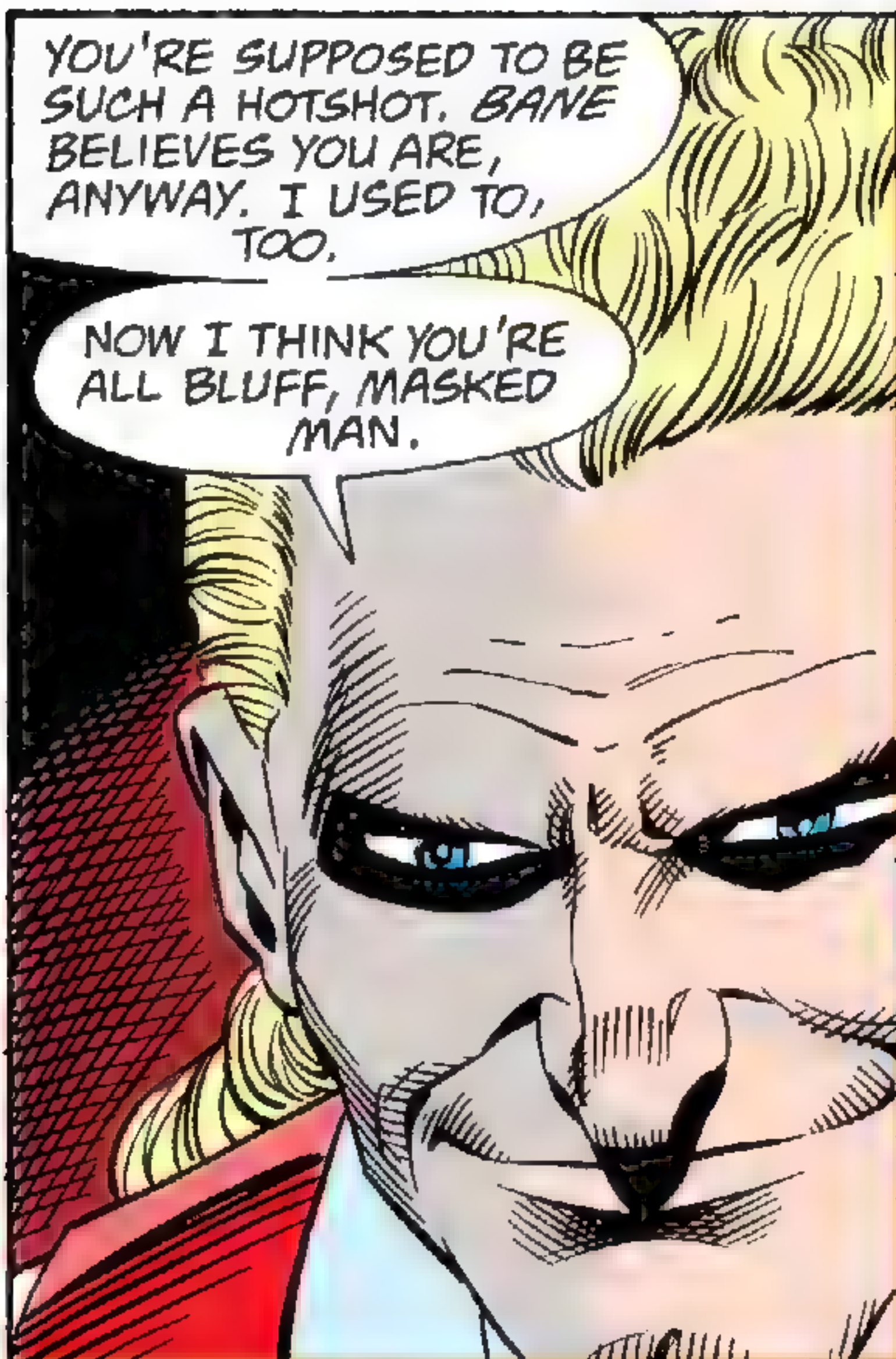


OR I COULD BE RUN INTO A TRAP.

SO YOU FOUND YOUR WAY HERE.

DON'T LOOK SO BIG AND SCARY NOW, HUH?

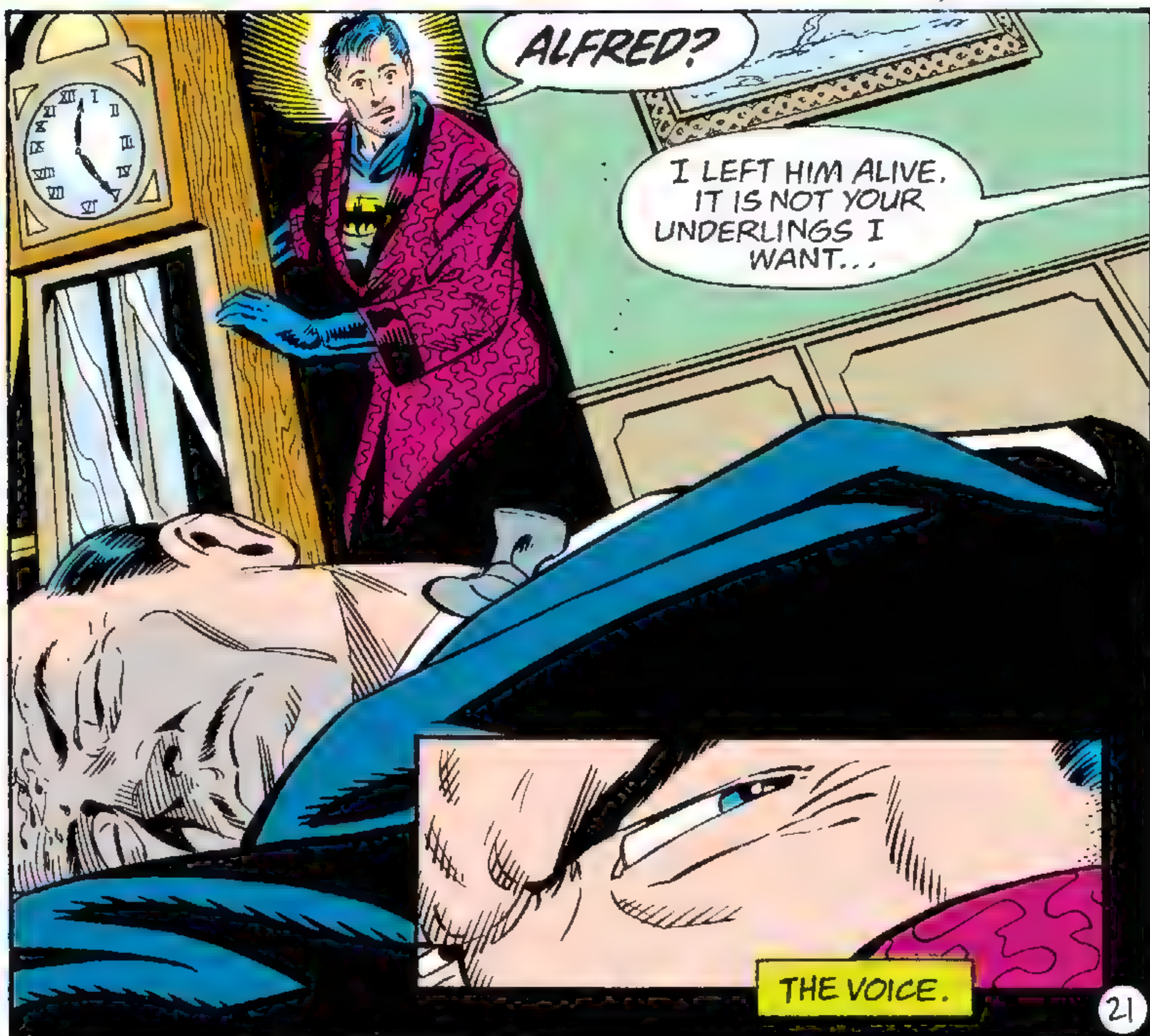
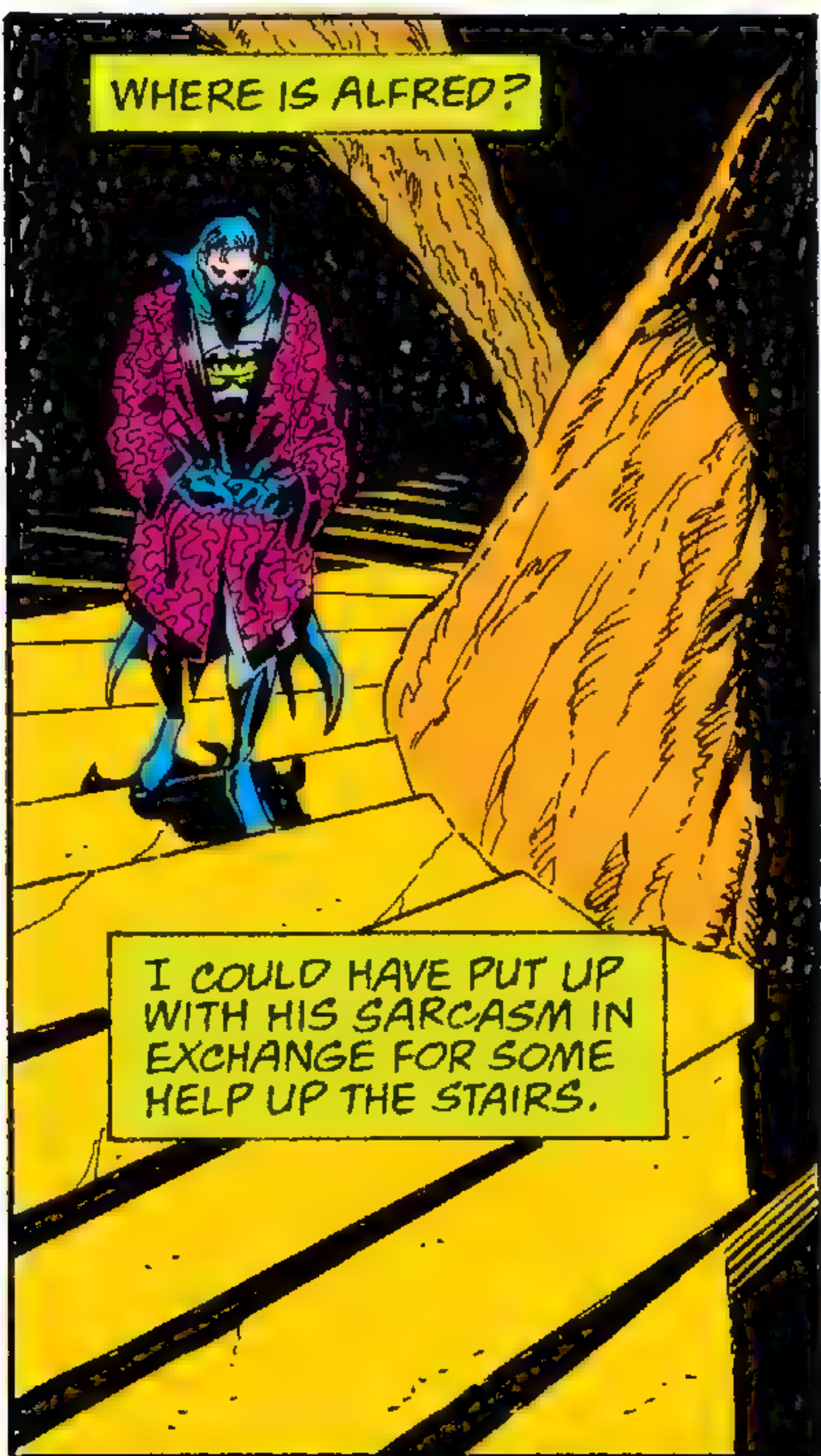
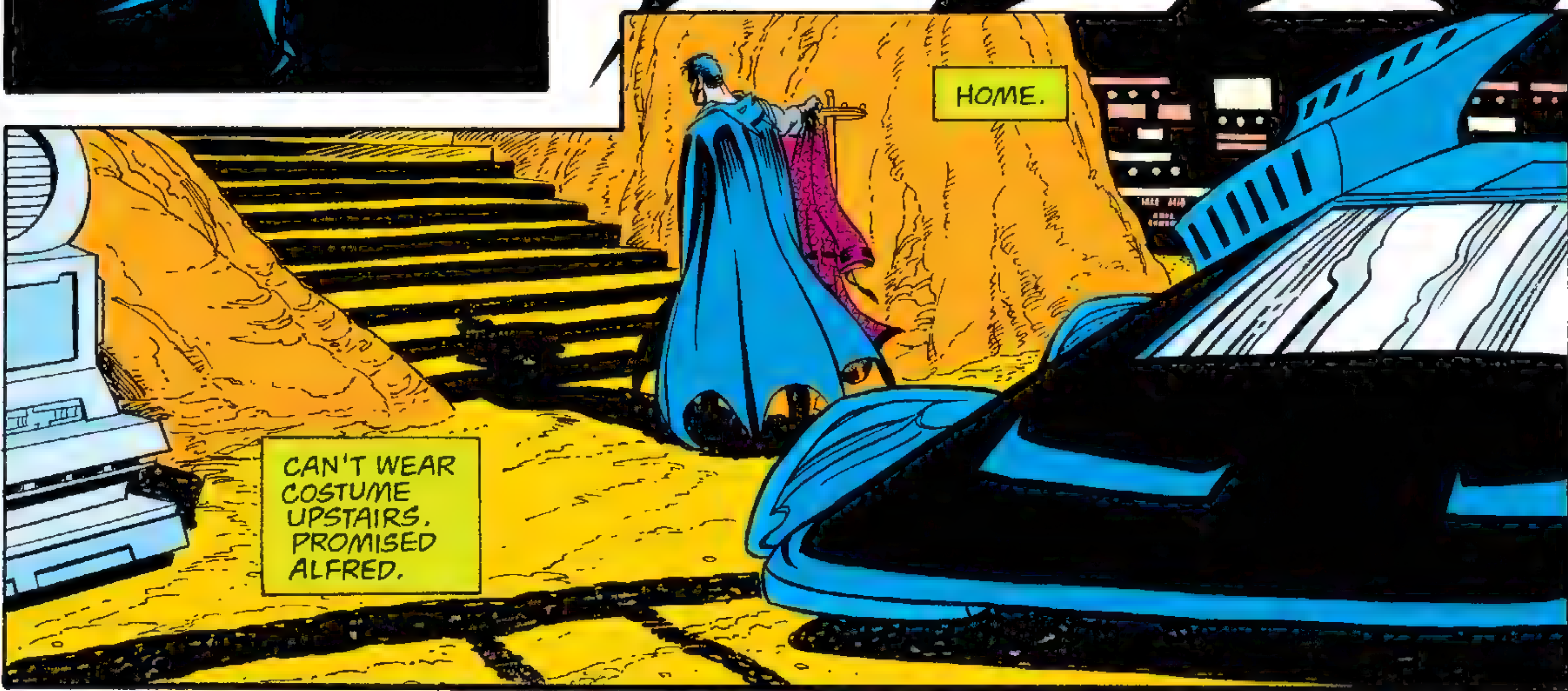
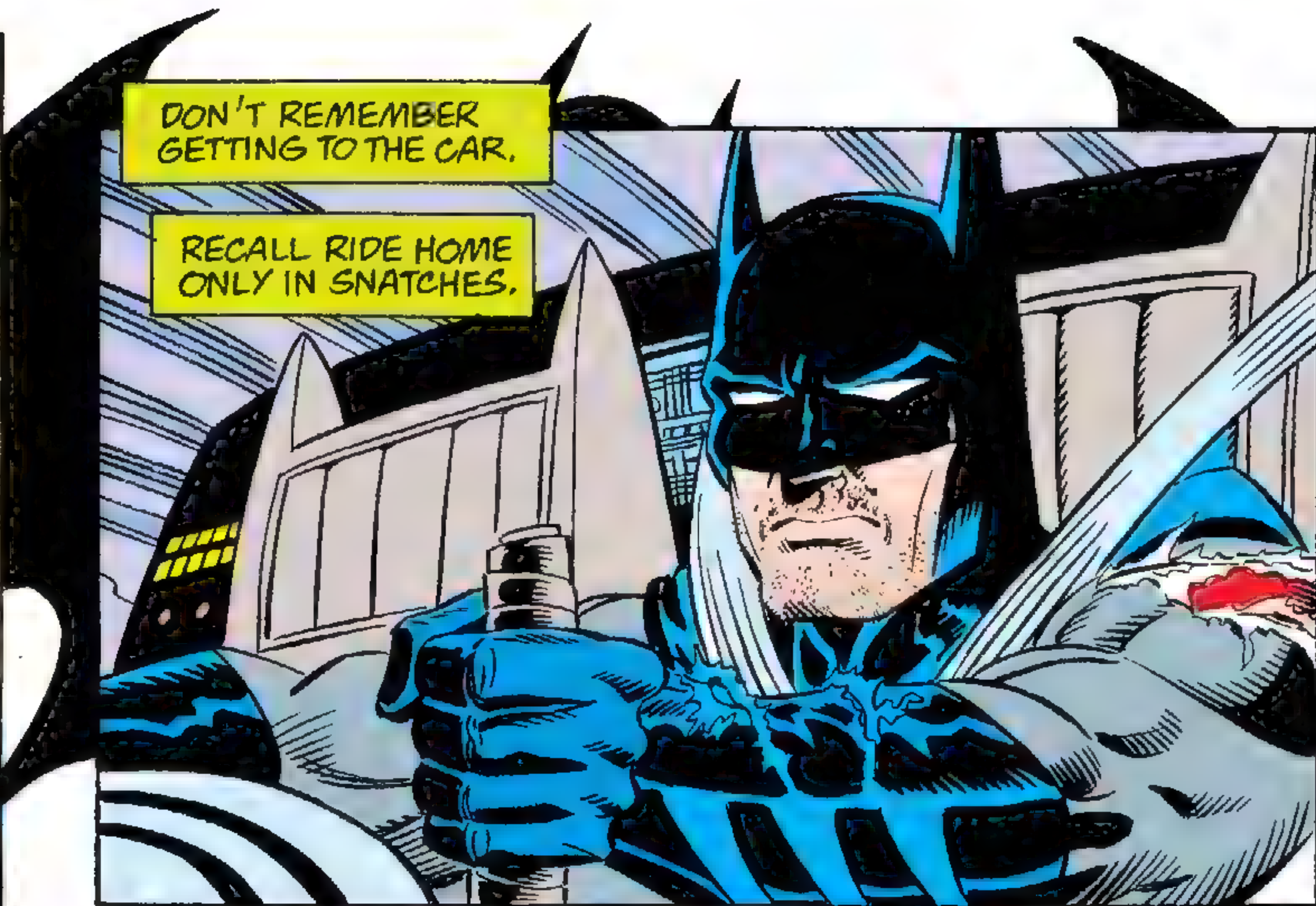
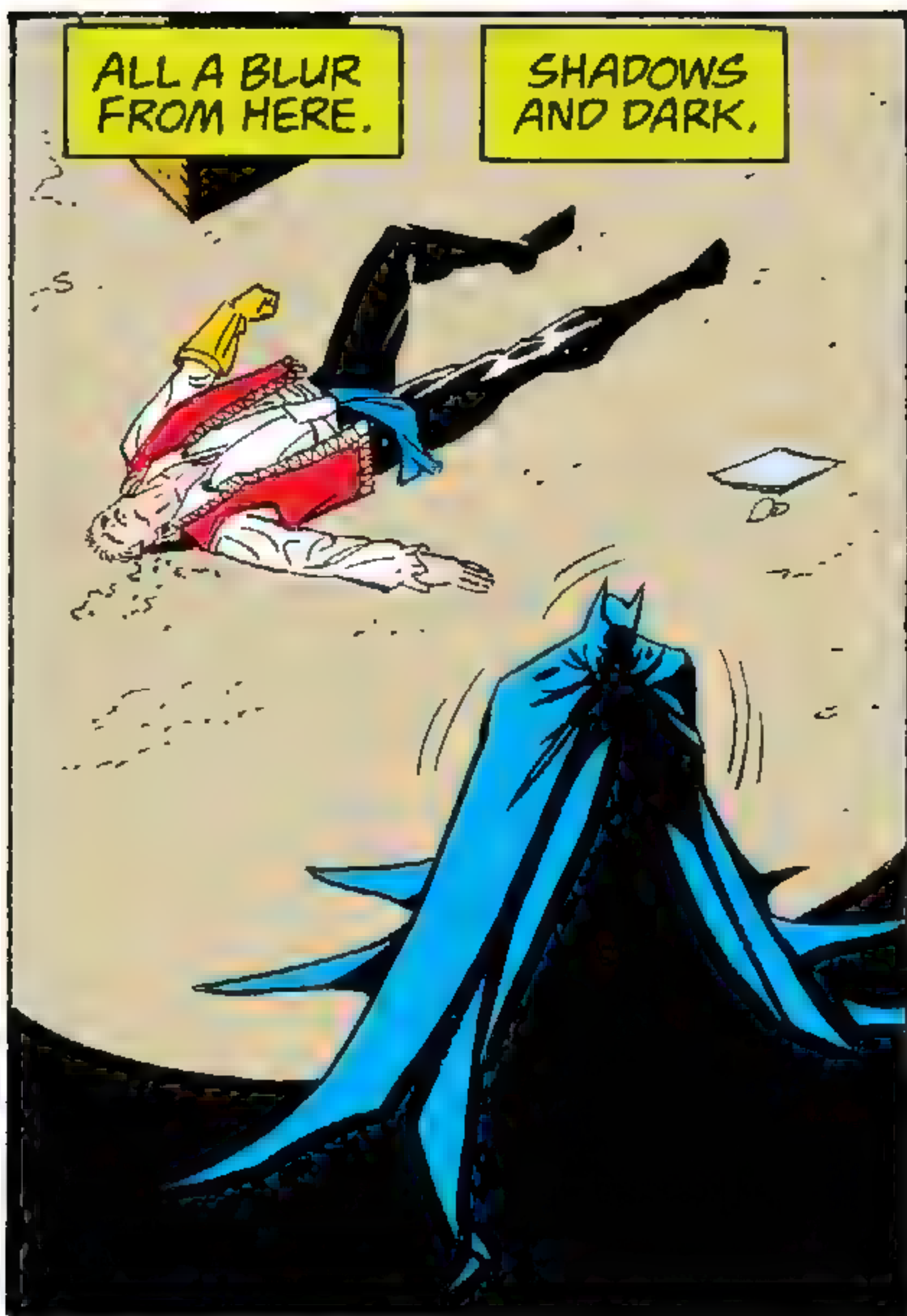


















KNIGHTFALL™



497  
LATE  
JULY 93

# BATMAN®



93





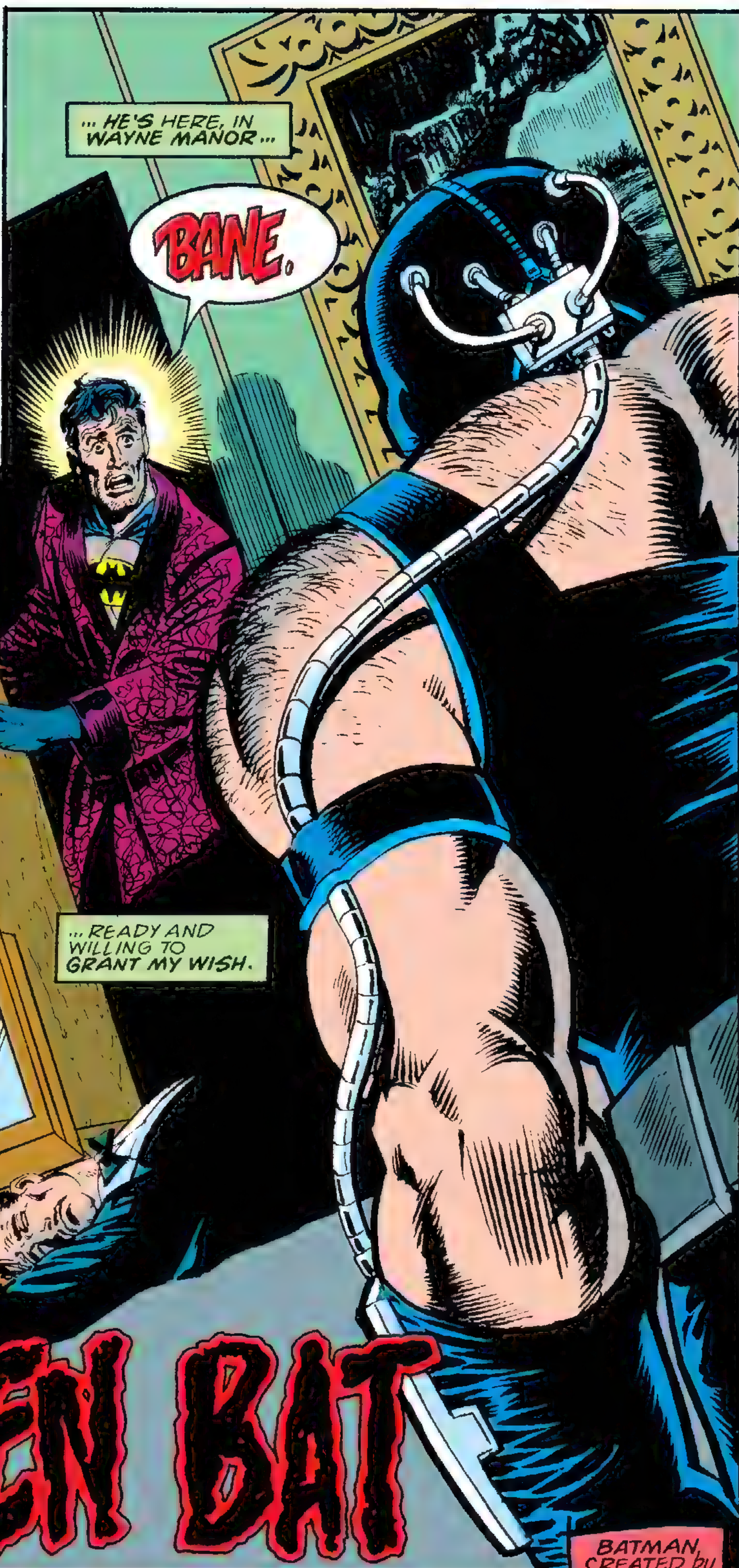
Cover art by  
**KELLEY JONES**





FEEL SO BAD,  
I WANT TO DIE...

...AND  
NOW...



... HE'S HERE, IN  
WAYNE MANOR ...

**BANE.**

... READY AND  
WILLING TO  
GRANT MY WISH.

# THE BROKEN BAT

DOUG  
MOENCH  
WRITER

JIM  
APARO  
ARTIST

DICK  
GIORDANO  
INKER

ADRIENNE  
ROY  
COLORIST

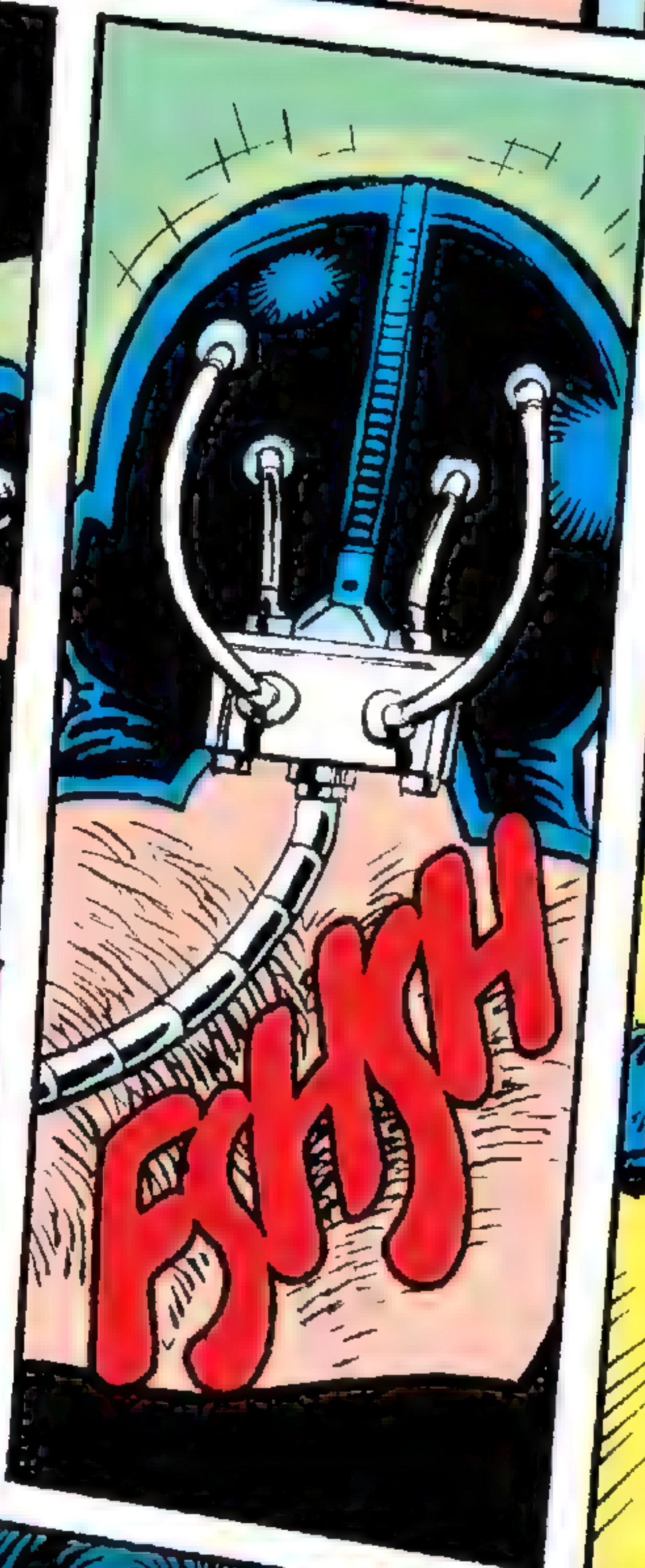
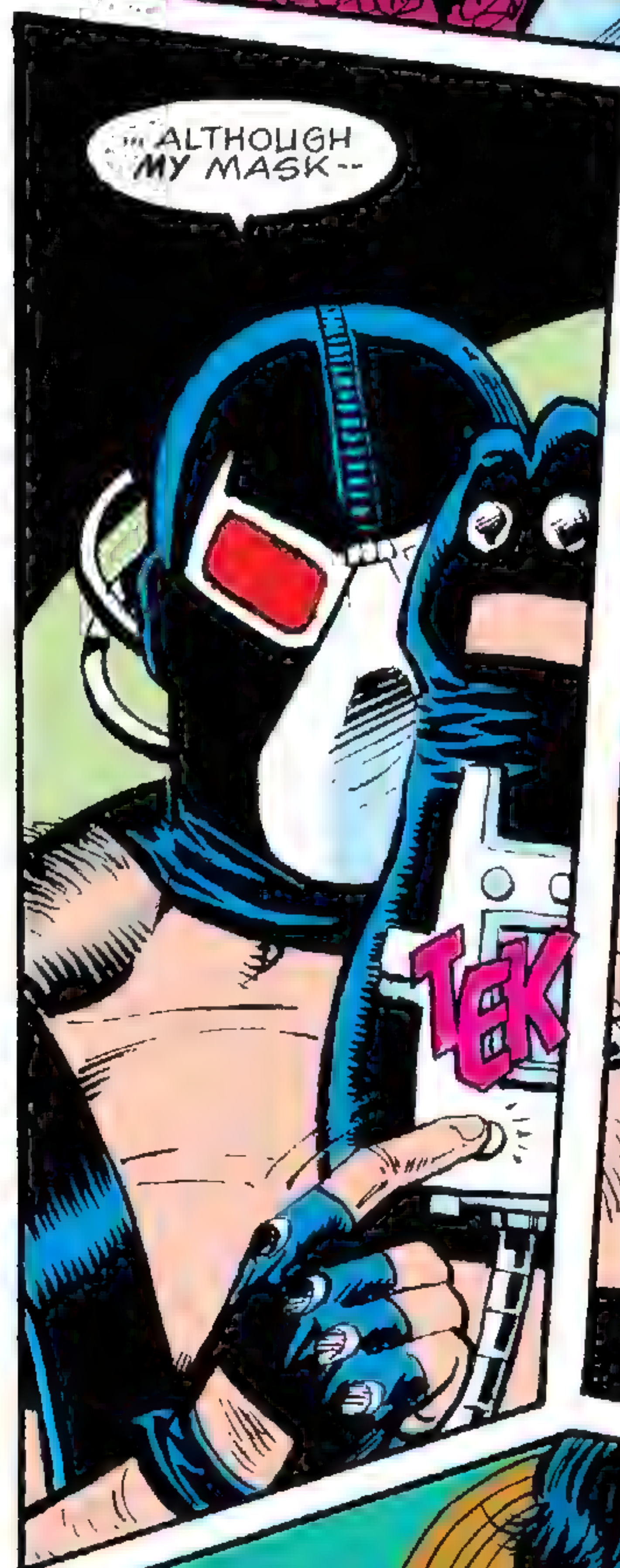
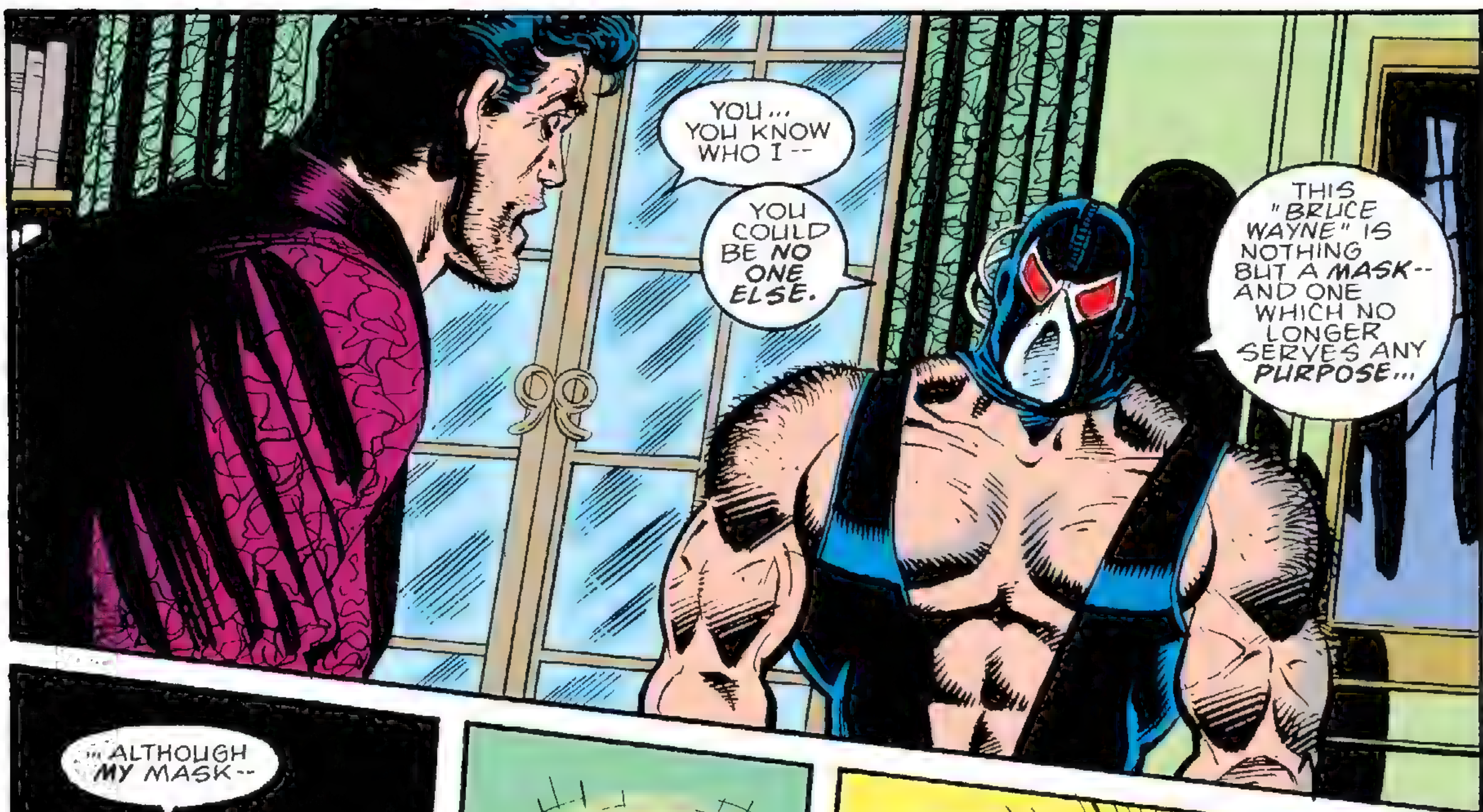
RICHARD  
STARKINGS  
LETTERER

JORDAN B.  
GORFINKEL  
ASST. EDITOR

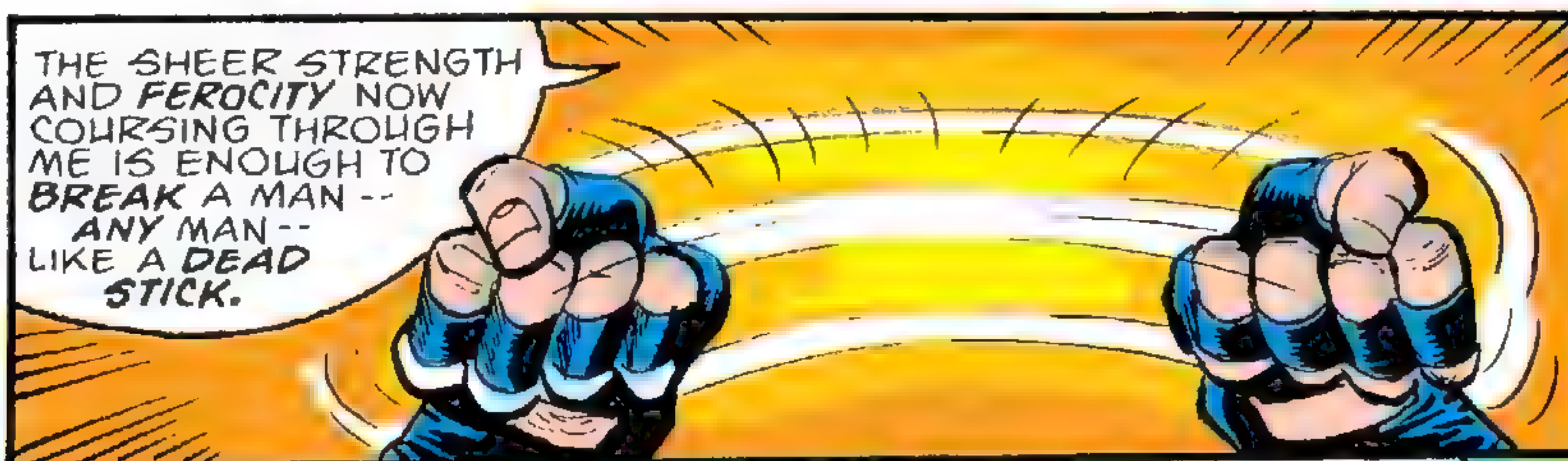
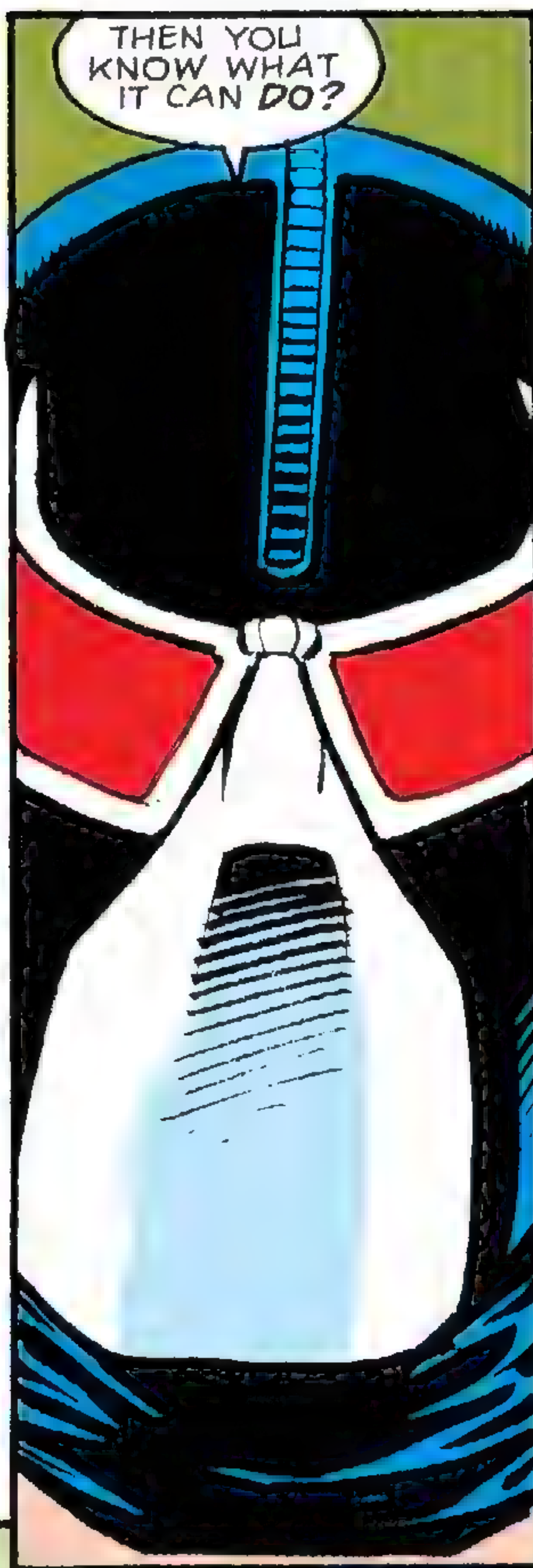
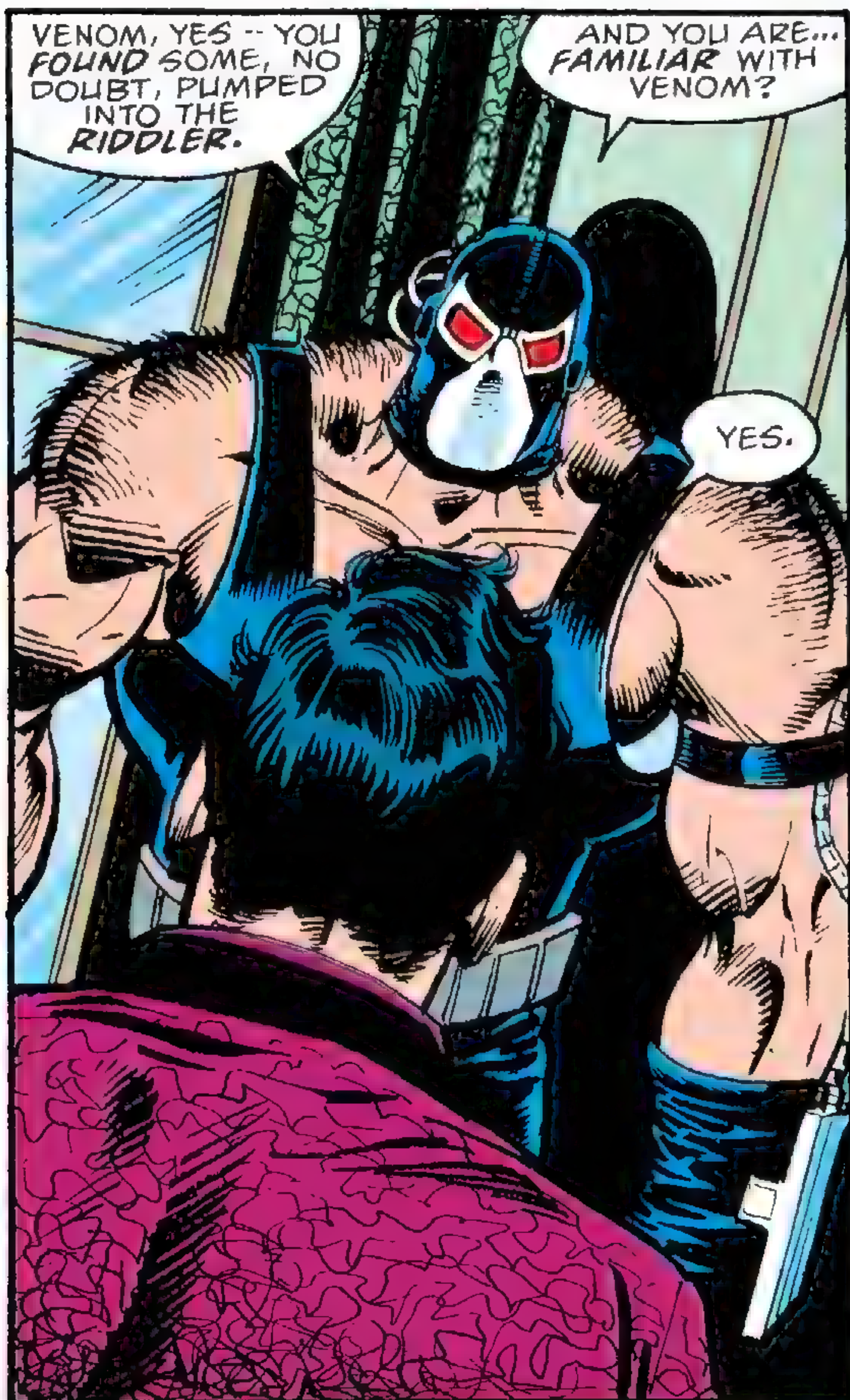
DENNIS  
O'NEIL  
EDITOR

BATMAN,  
CREATED BY  
**BOB  
KANE**

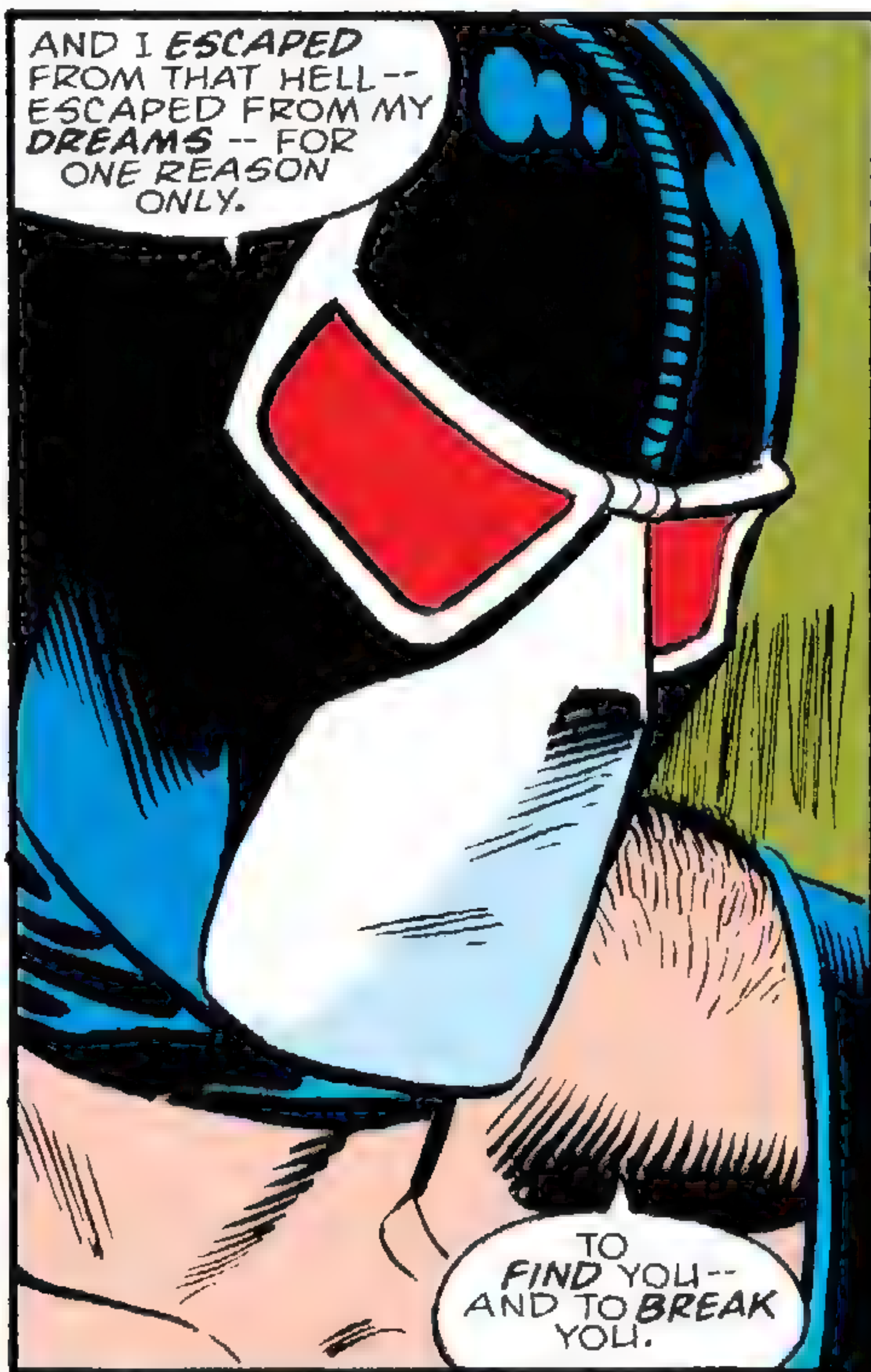












AND I ESCAPED FROM THAT HELL-- ESCAPED FROM MY DREAMS -- FOR ONE REASON ONLY.

TO FIND YOU-- AND TO BREAK YOU.



WHY? WHAT HAS IT ALL BEEN ABOUT? FREEING THE INMATES FROM ARKHAM, WATCHING ME DEAL WITH THEM, WATCHING THEM WEAR ME DOWN... WAS IT ALL JUST TO LEARN ABOUT ME? TO WEAKEN ME?

THERE MUST BE MORE TO IT -- BUT WHAT?



GOTHAM-- THE ULTIMATE PRIZE.

YOU HAVE IT.

I WANT IT.



AND ALL THE DEATHS... ALL THE WASTED LIVES... IT'S BEEN NOTHING BUT THAT?

YOU'D KILL JUST TO "RULE" THIS CITY? JUST FOR--

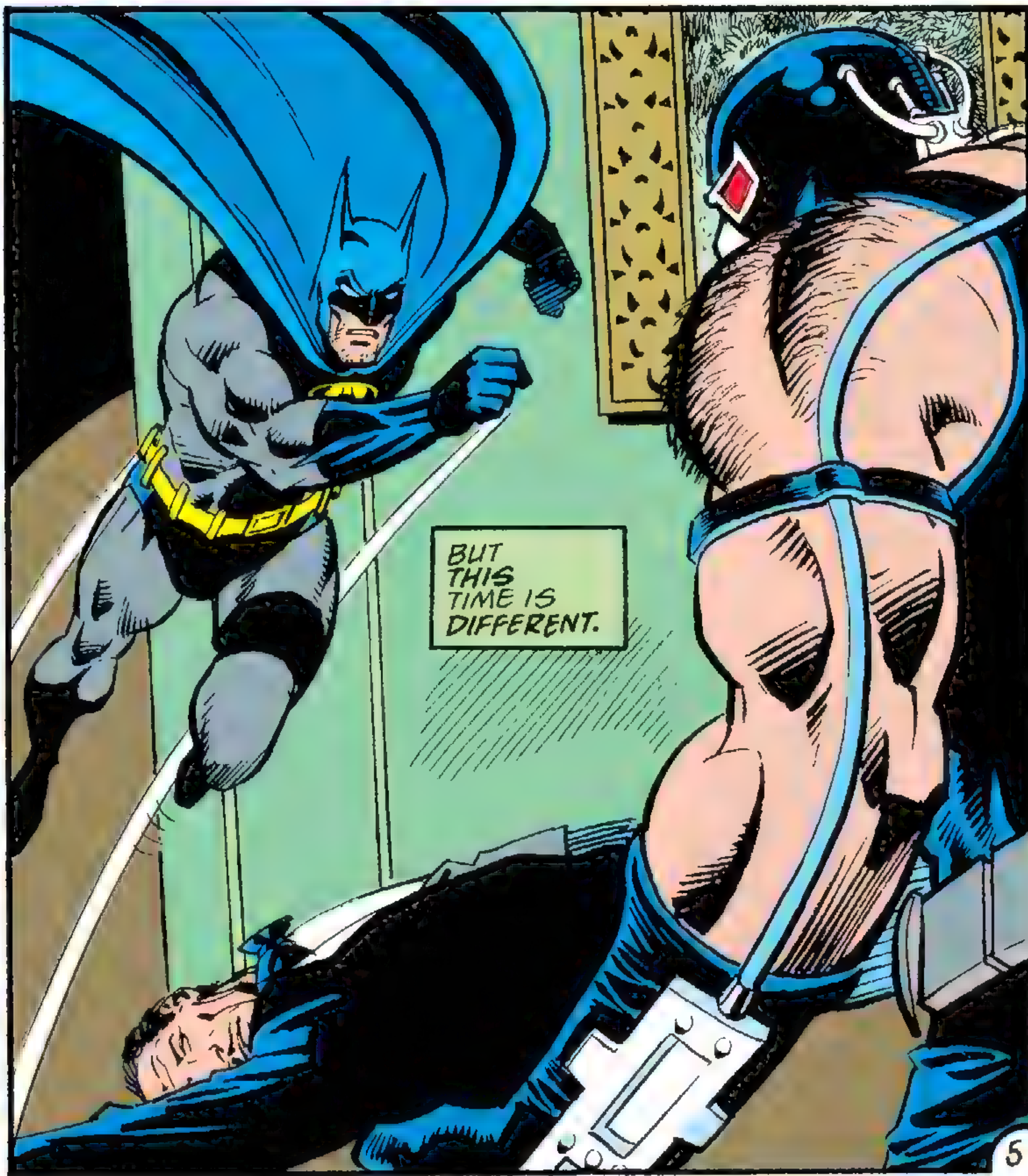
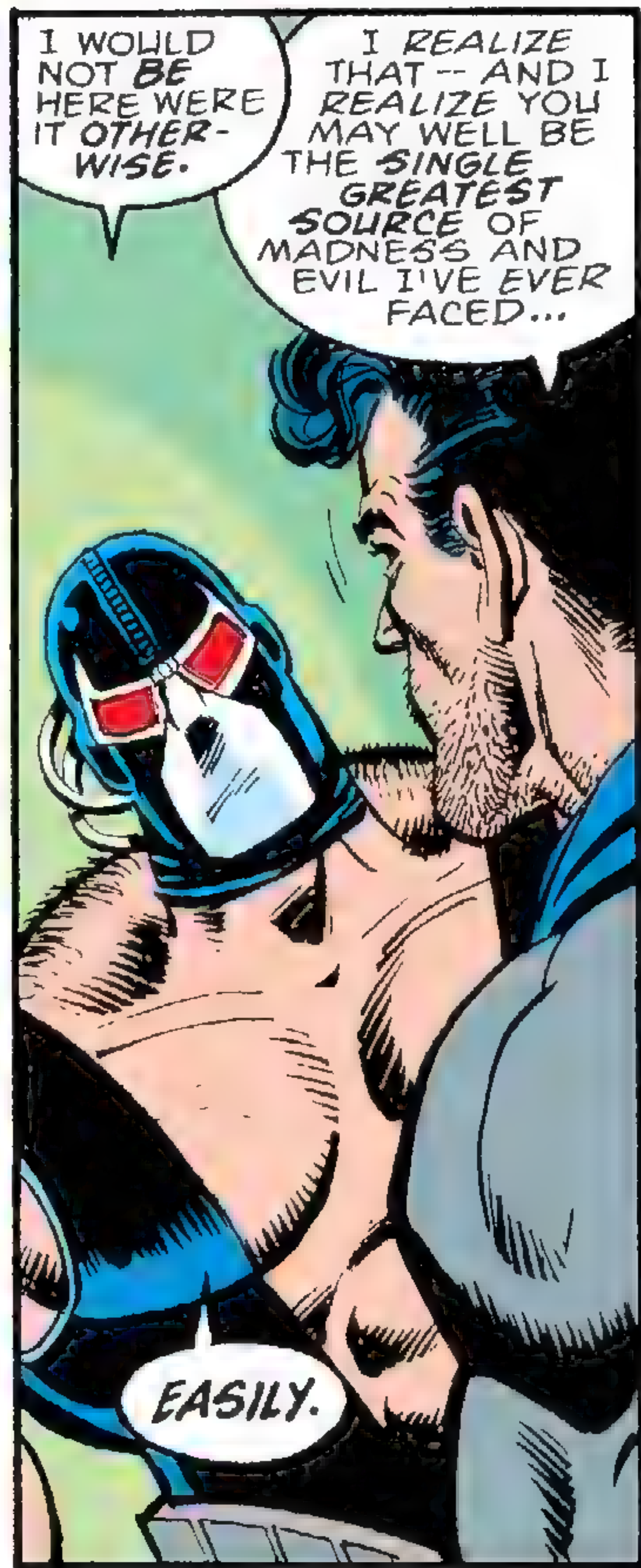
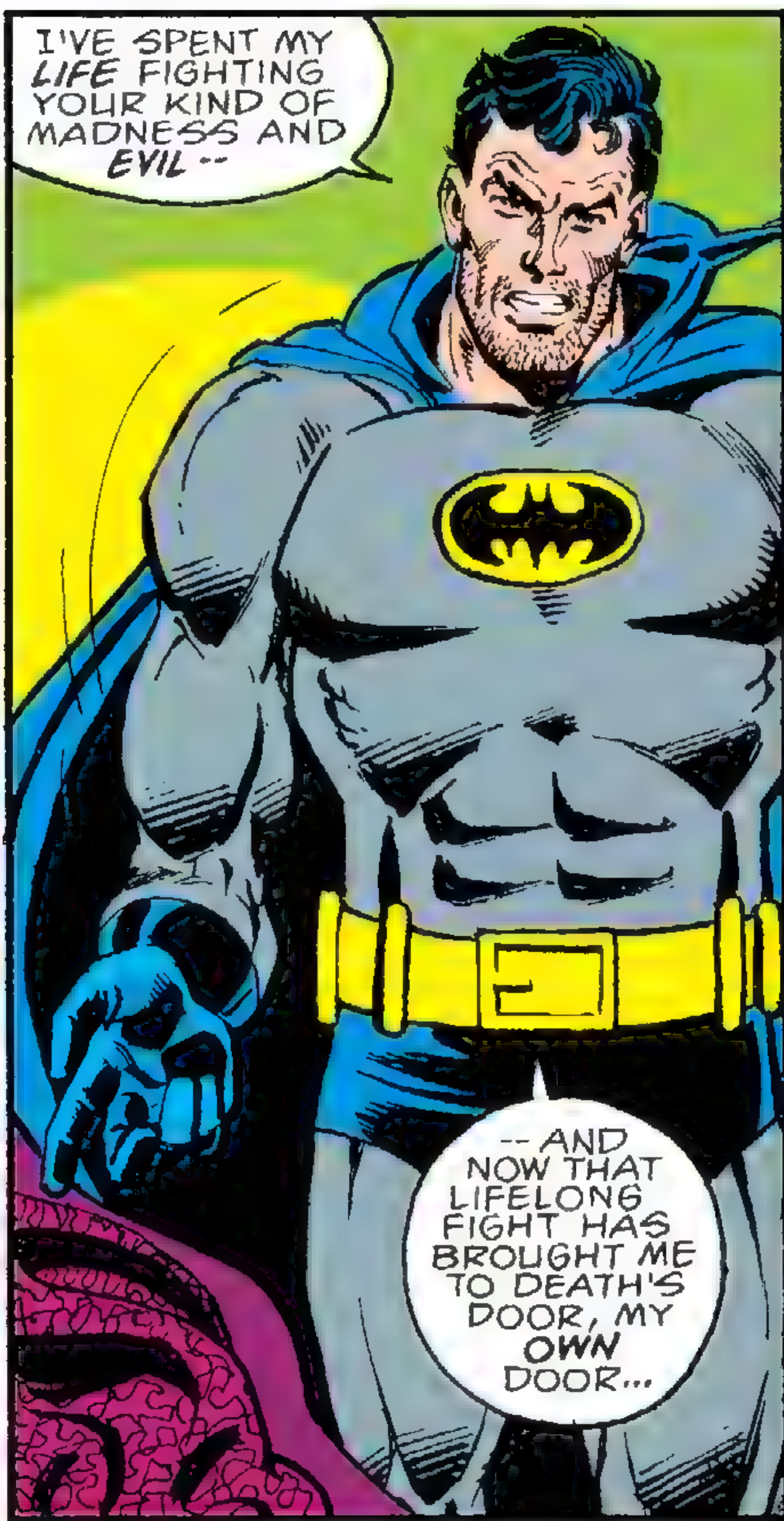


I'D KILL FOR ANY-THING.

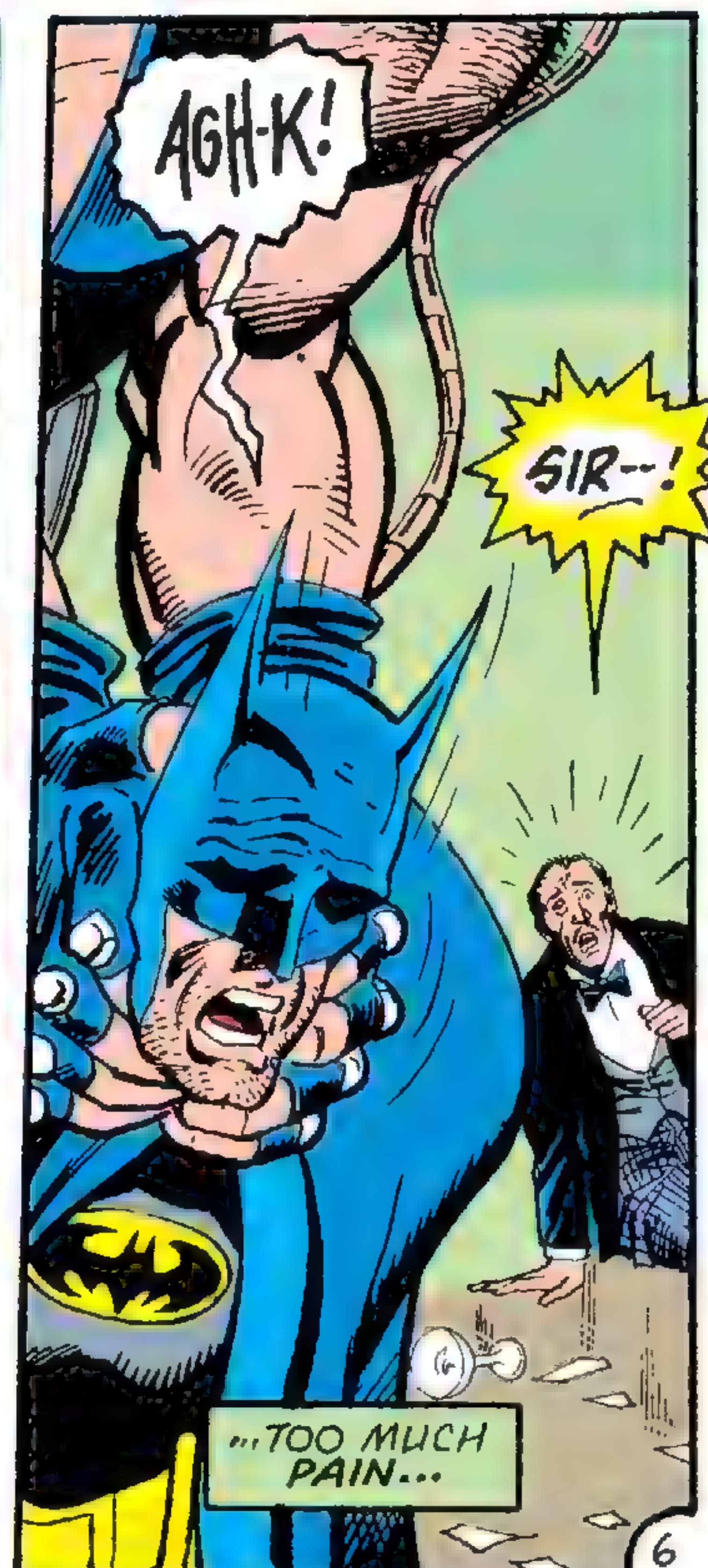
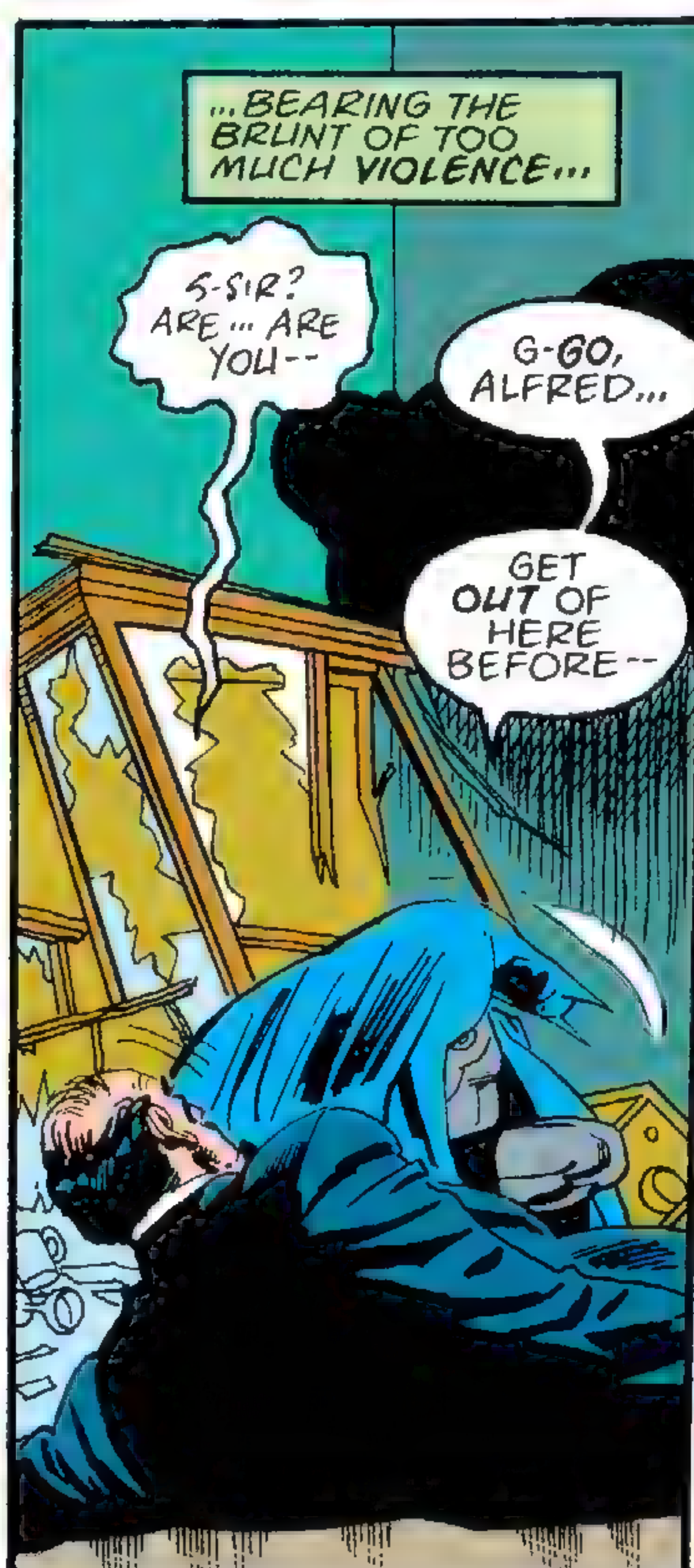
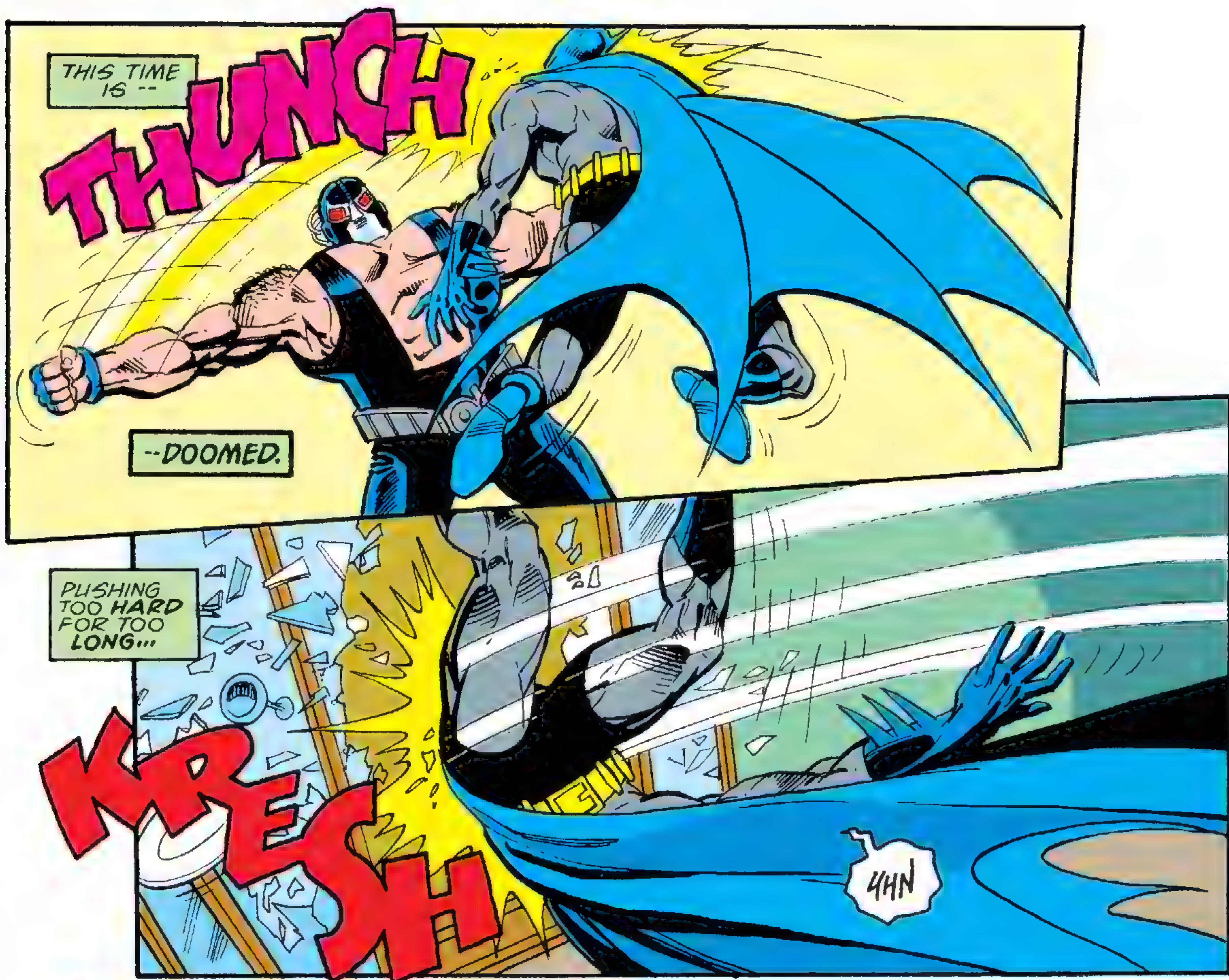
I'D KILL TO SILENCE A GRATING VOICE.

TO DARKEN THE LIGHT IN EYES THAT DARED LOOK AT ME.

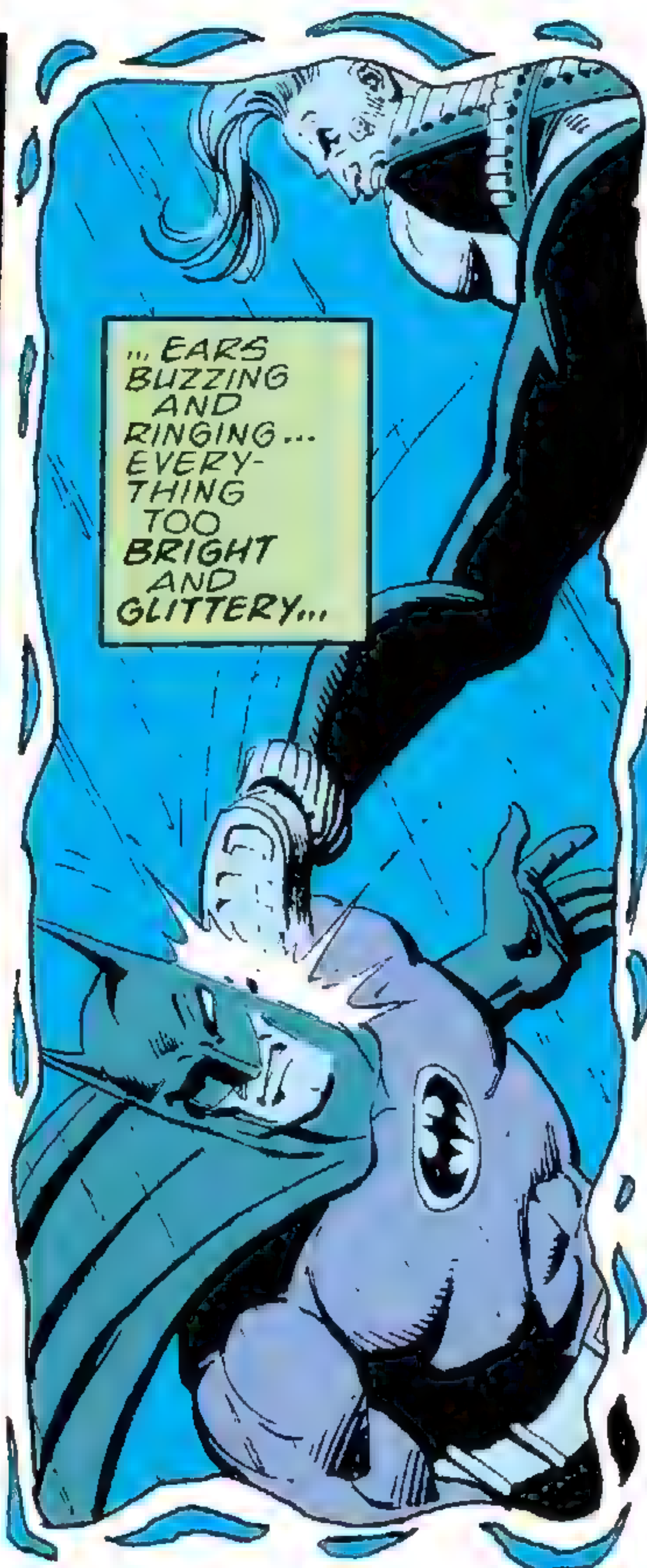
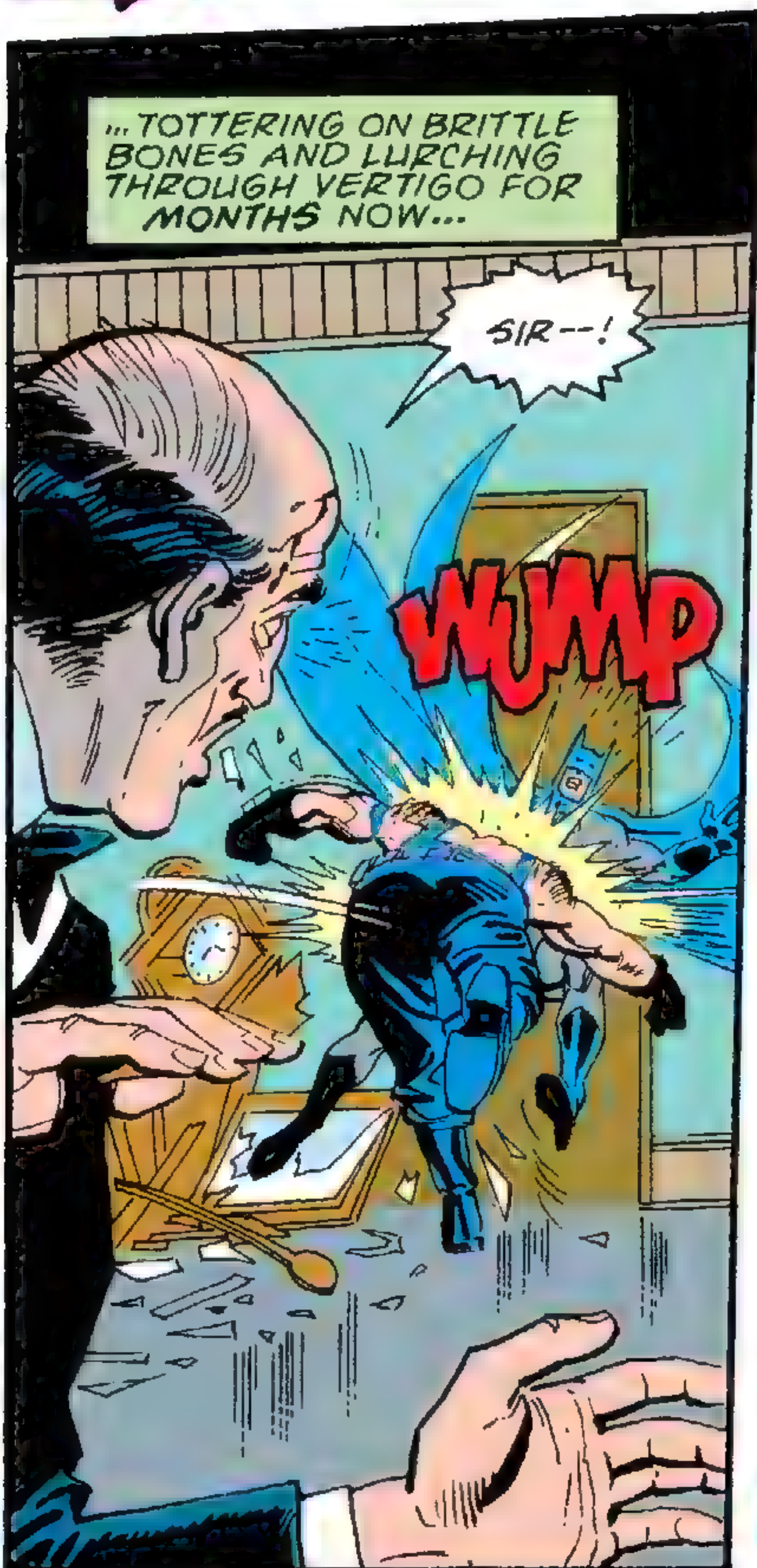
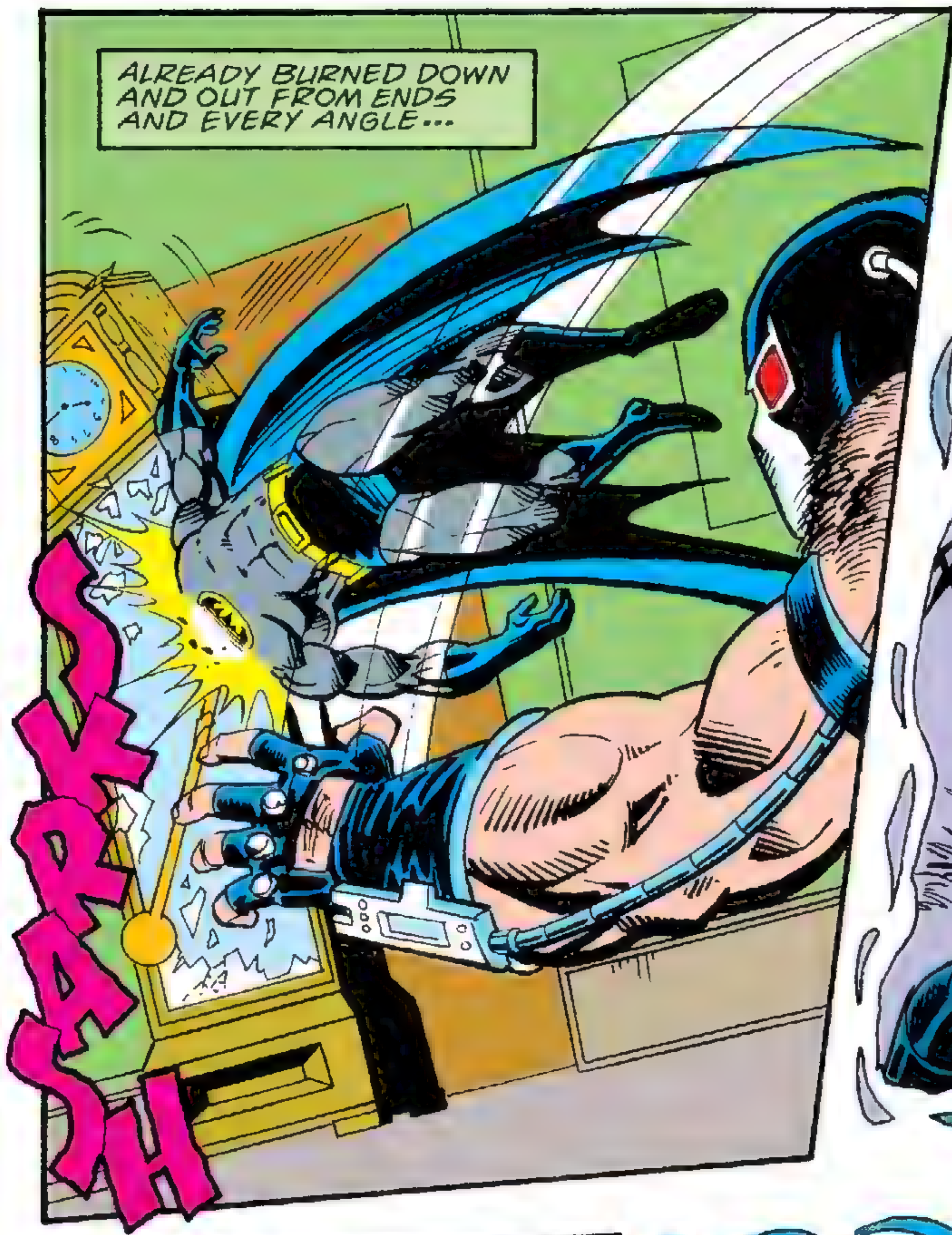








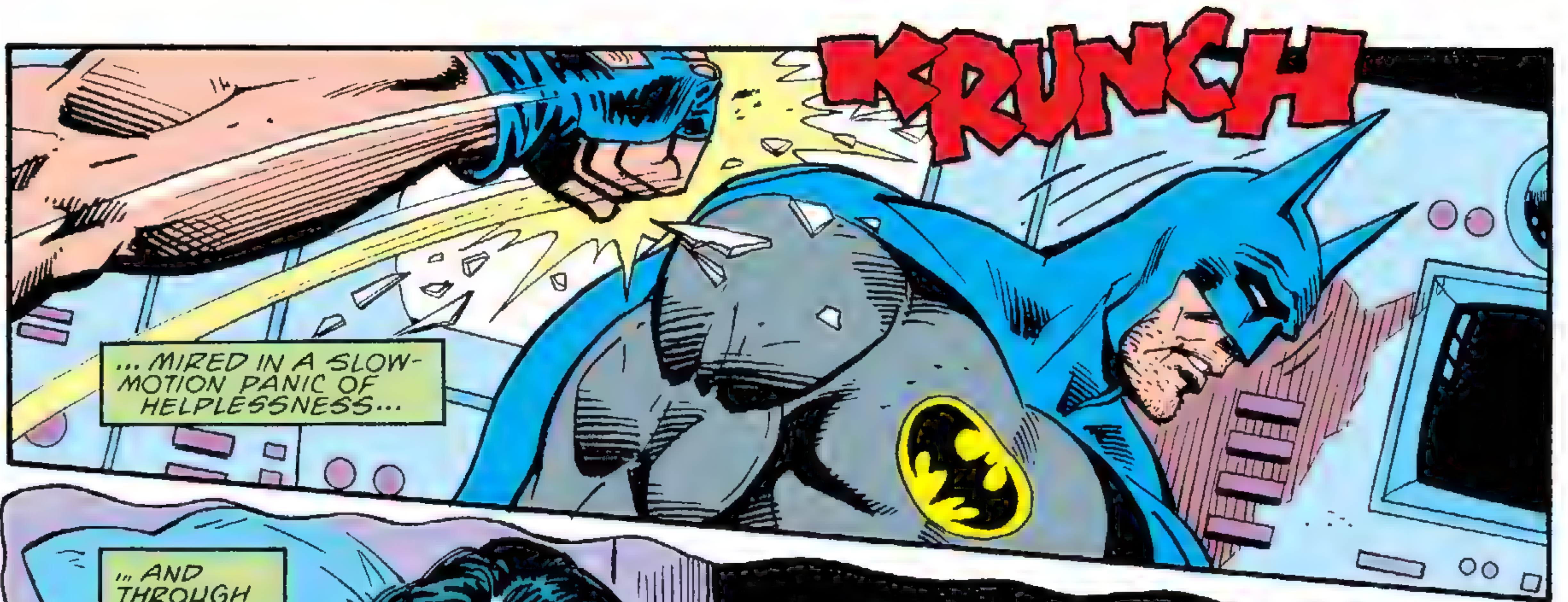










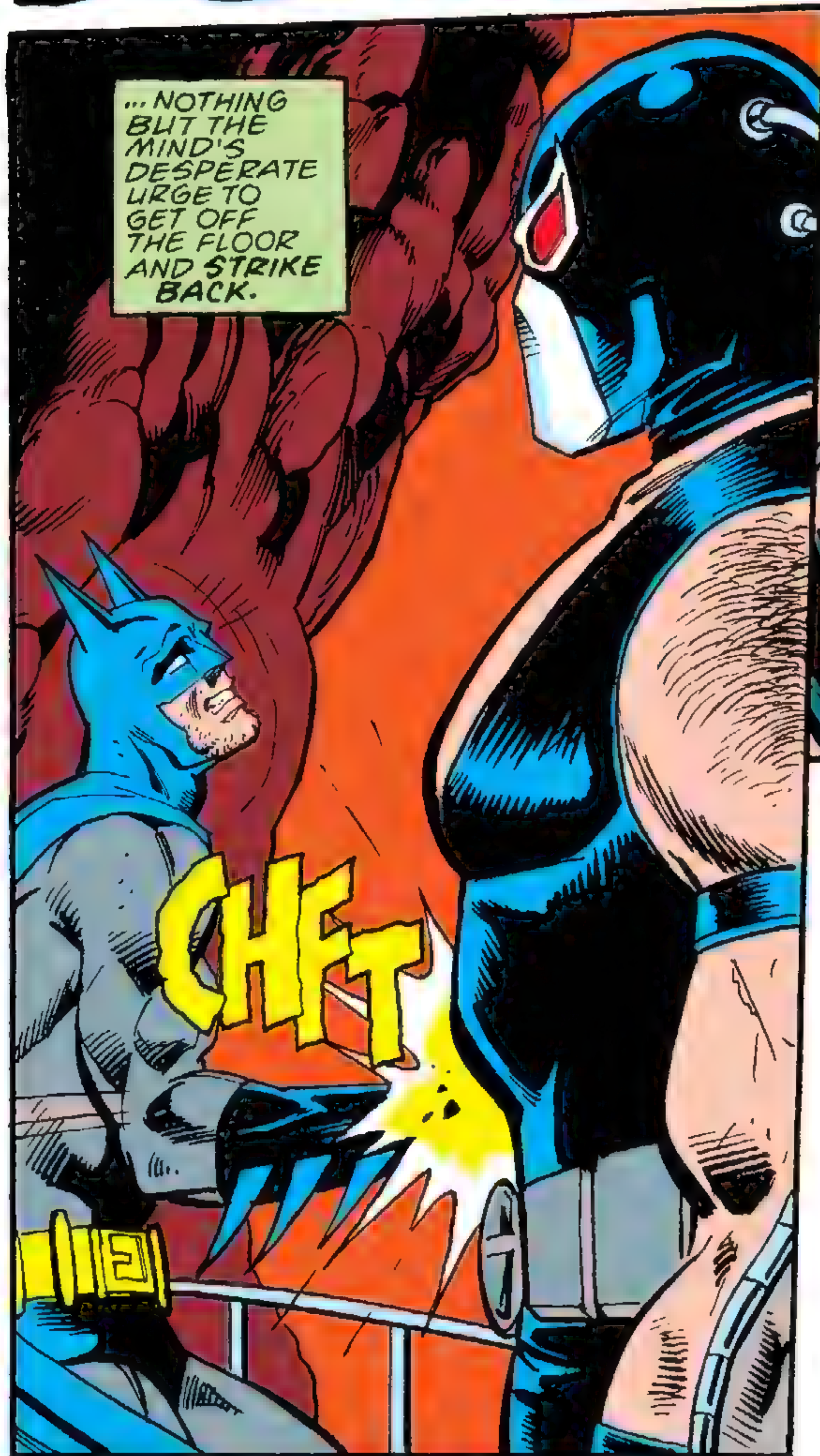


... MIRED IN A SLOW-MOTION PANIC OF HELPLESSNESS...



... AND THROUGH IT ALL, NO SLEEP, NO REST...

... EVEN WHEN MOVEMENT ITSELF WAS IMPOSSIBLE...



... NOTHING BUT THE MIND'S DESPERATE URGE TO GET OFF THE FLOOR AND STRIKE BACK.



... EVEN WHEN EVERY UPHILL EFFORT IS WASTED AND FUTILE...

YOU ARE ALREADY BROKEN.



... REALITY ITSELF SMASHED AND SPLINTERED, LIKE THE RUDE DEATH OF AN IMPOSSIBLE DREAM...



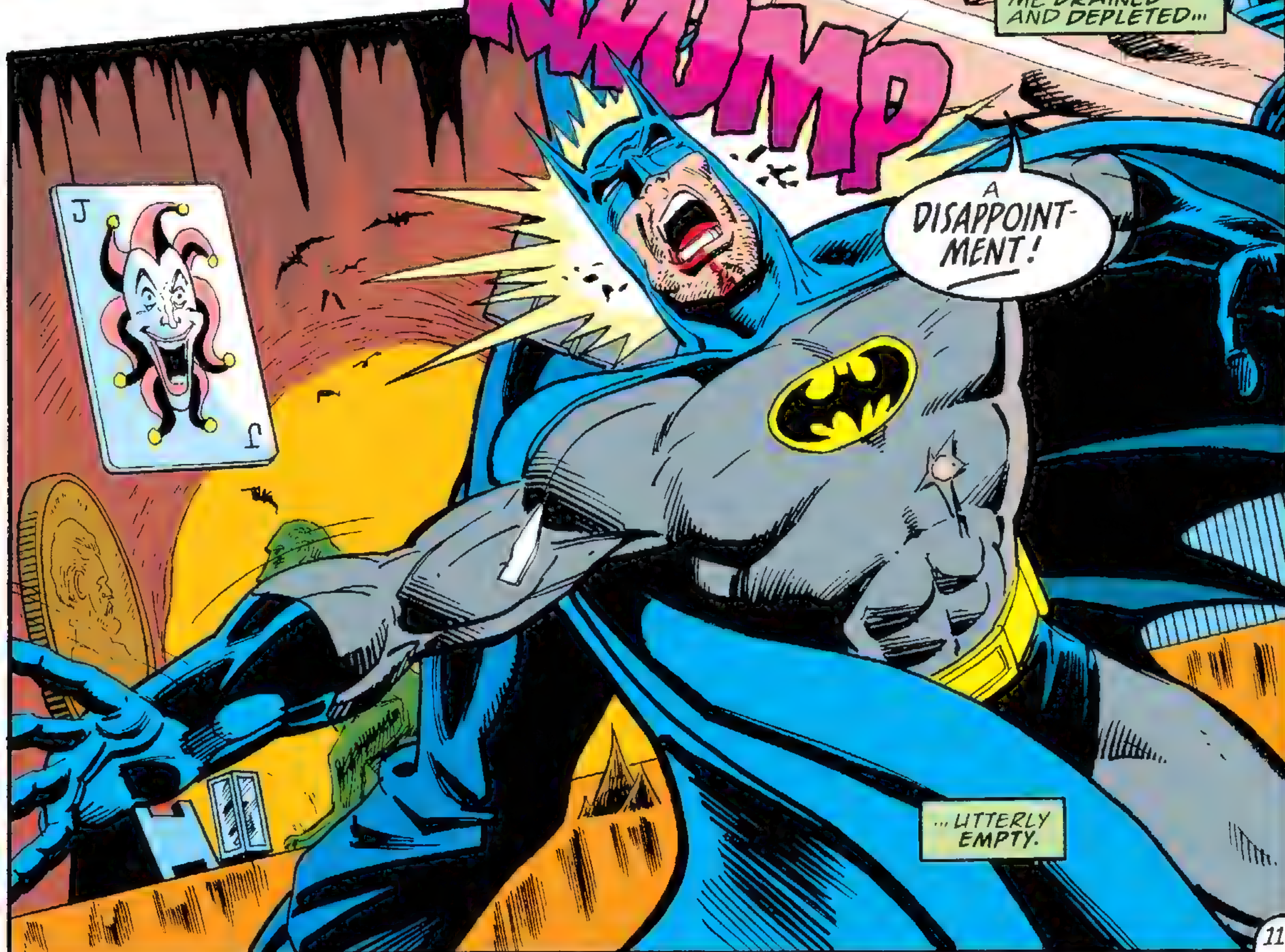
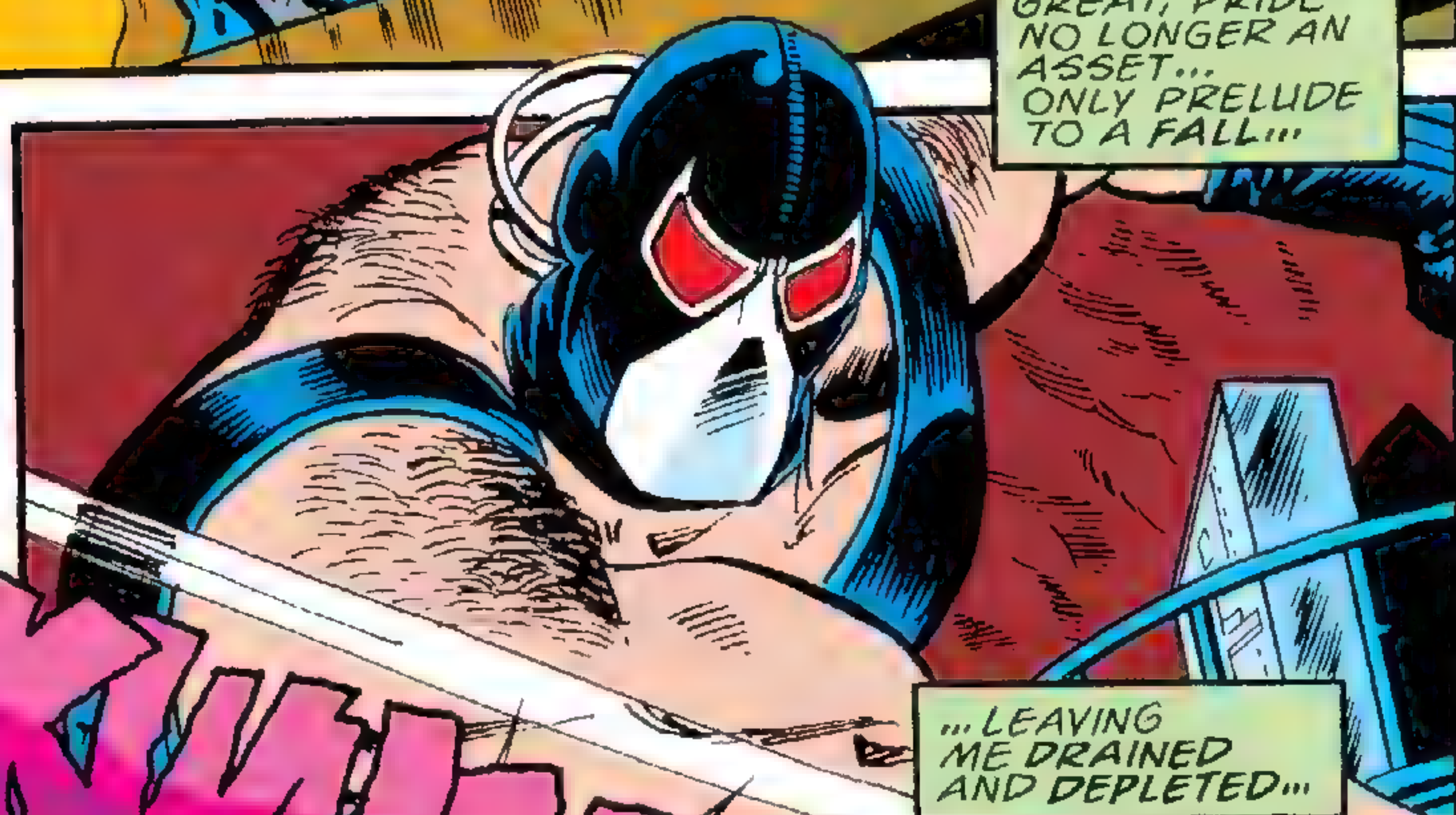
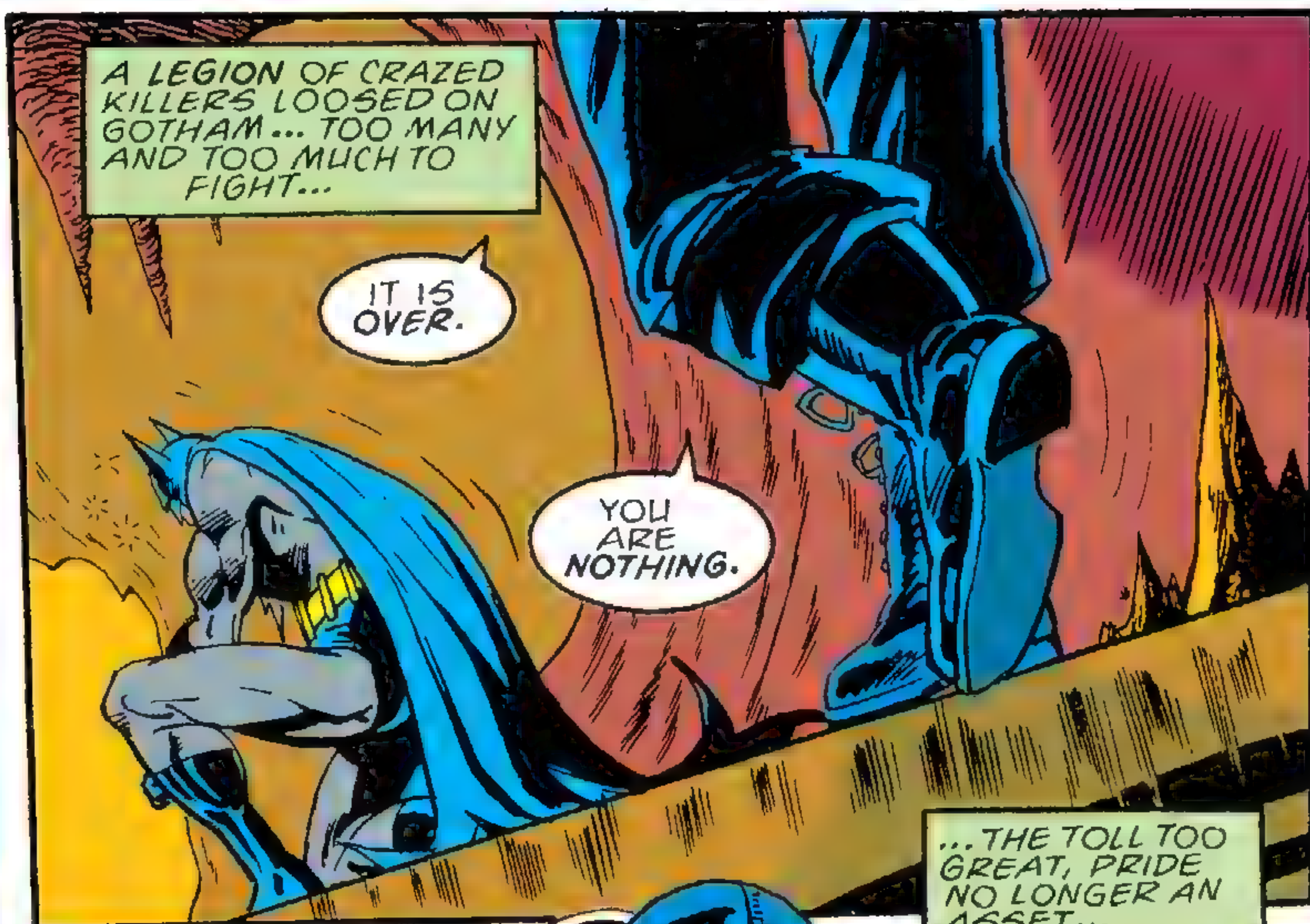
... AWAKENING AGAIN AND AGAIN  
TO NOTHING BUT AGONY,  
RELENTLESS AND REPEATED...

**SHOKK**

AND THEN  
THE CROWNING  
HORROR OF  
SHATTERED  
ARKHAM...

... SPILLING ITS MAD  
GUTS INTO THE LONG  
DARK NIGHT OF  
HOPELESS HORROR.









BUT STILL  
THEY LOOMED  
AND LUNGED  
FROM THE  
DARK...

...LAUGHING  
DEMONS  
WITH BAD  
INTENT...

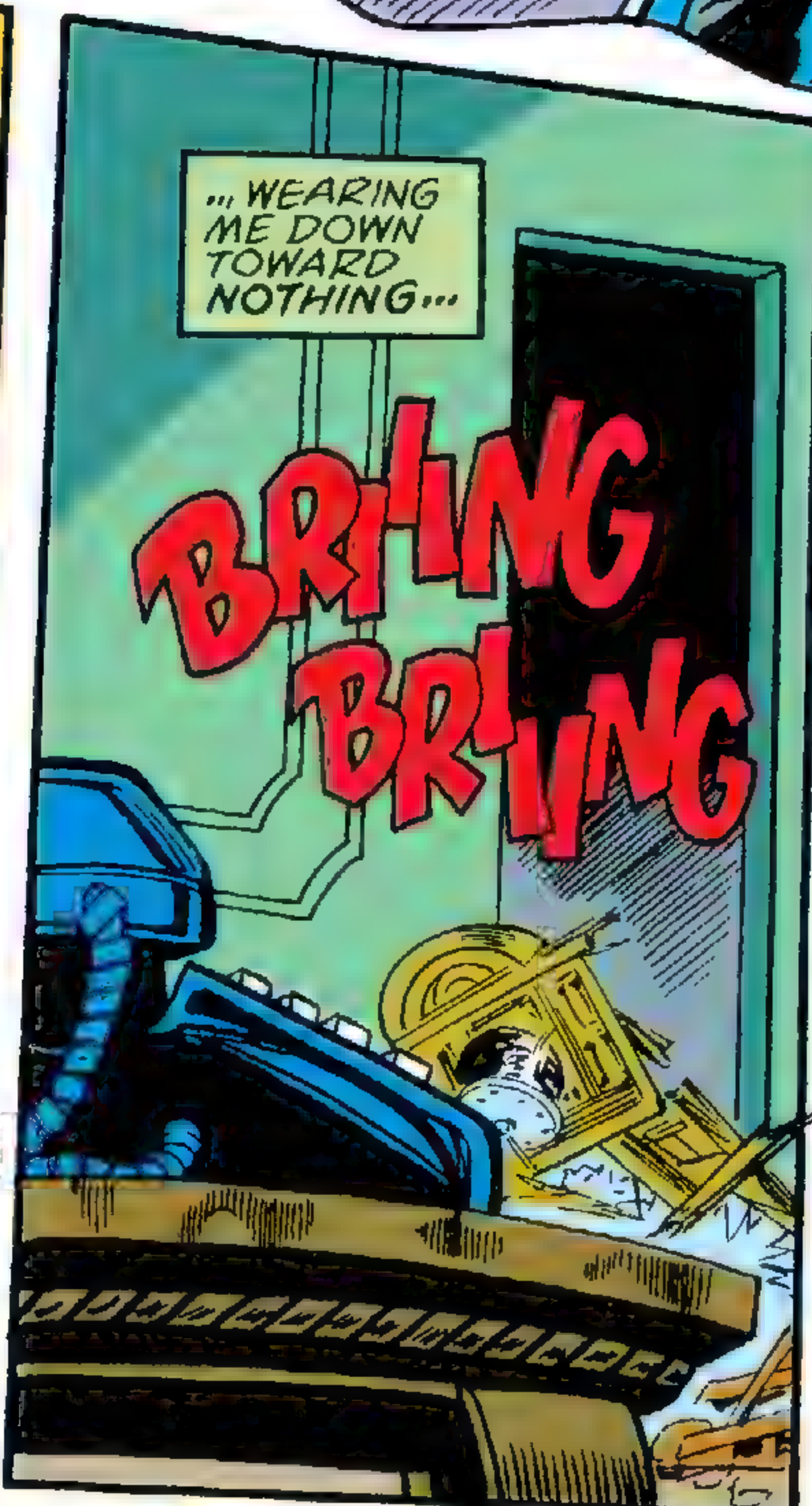


...BEARING  
PAIN AND  
NOTHING  
MORE...

SPLOMP

...CHIPPING  
AWAY AT  
WHATEVER  
WAS LEFT...

WUMP



...WEARING  
ME DOWN  
TOWARD  
NOTHING...

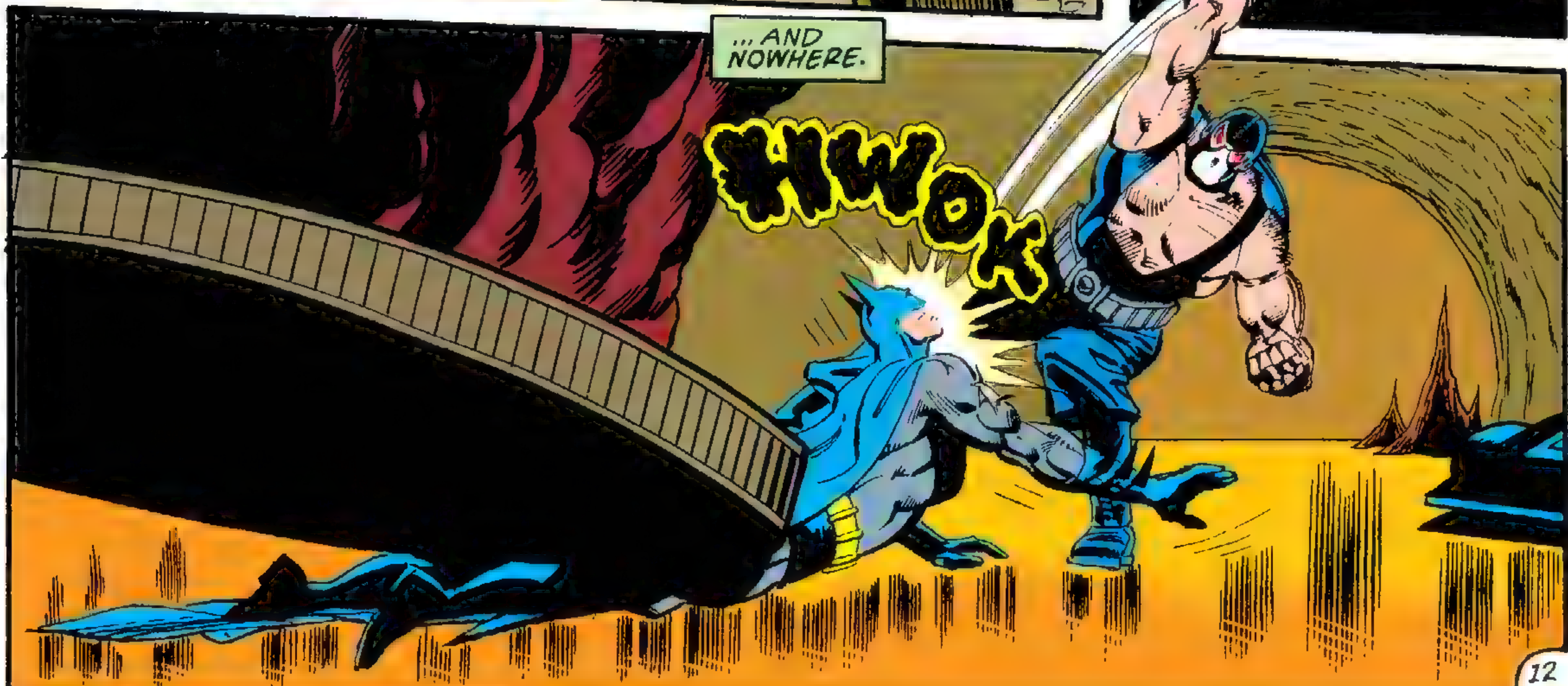
BRING  
BRING



STILL  
NOT  
HOME...

...EVEN  
AT  
NIGHT.

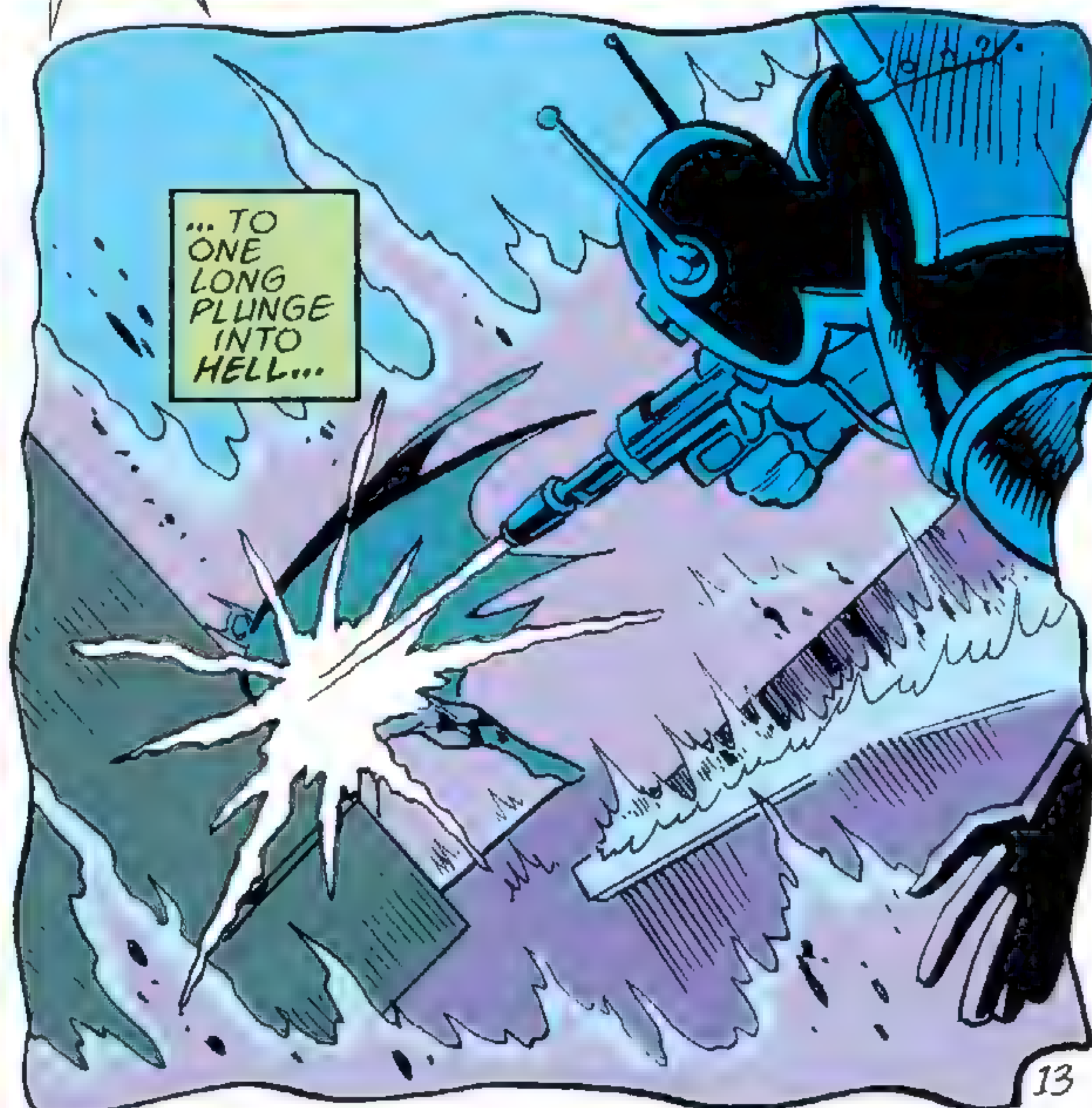
DR. SHONDRA KINS



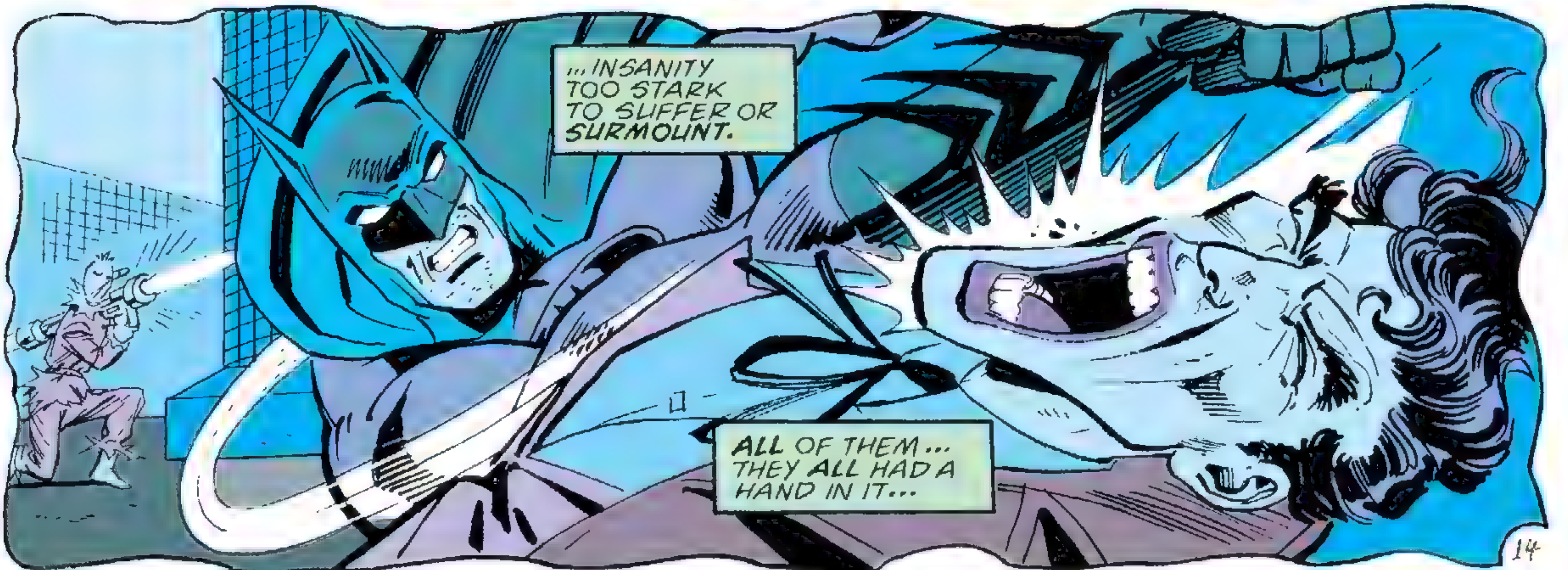
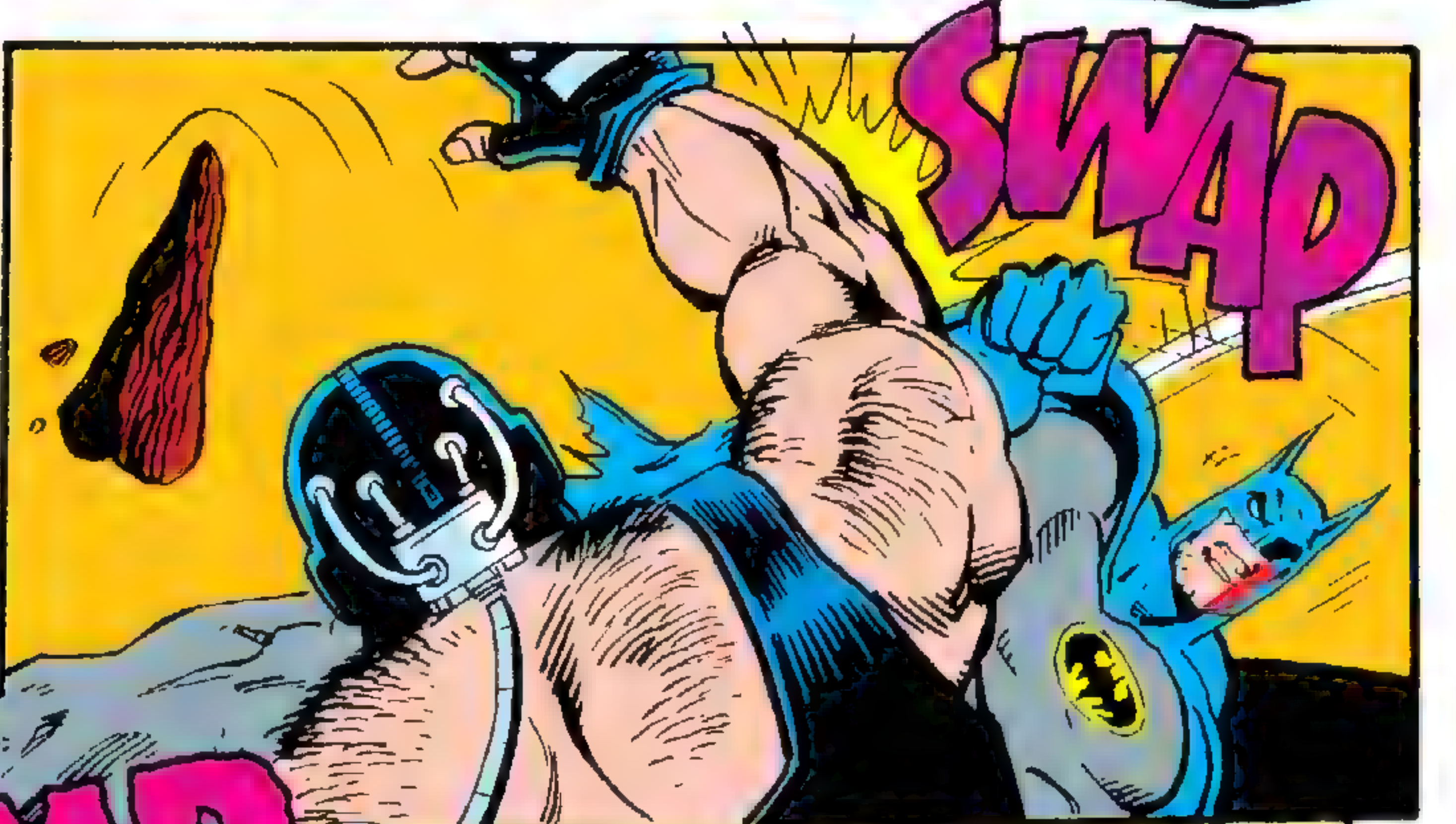
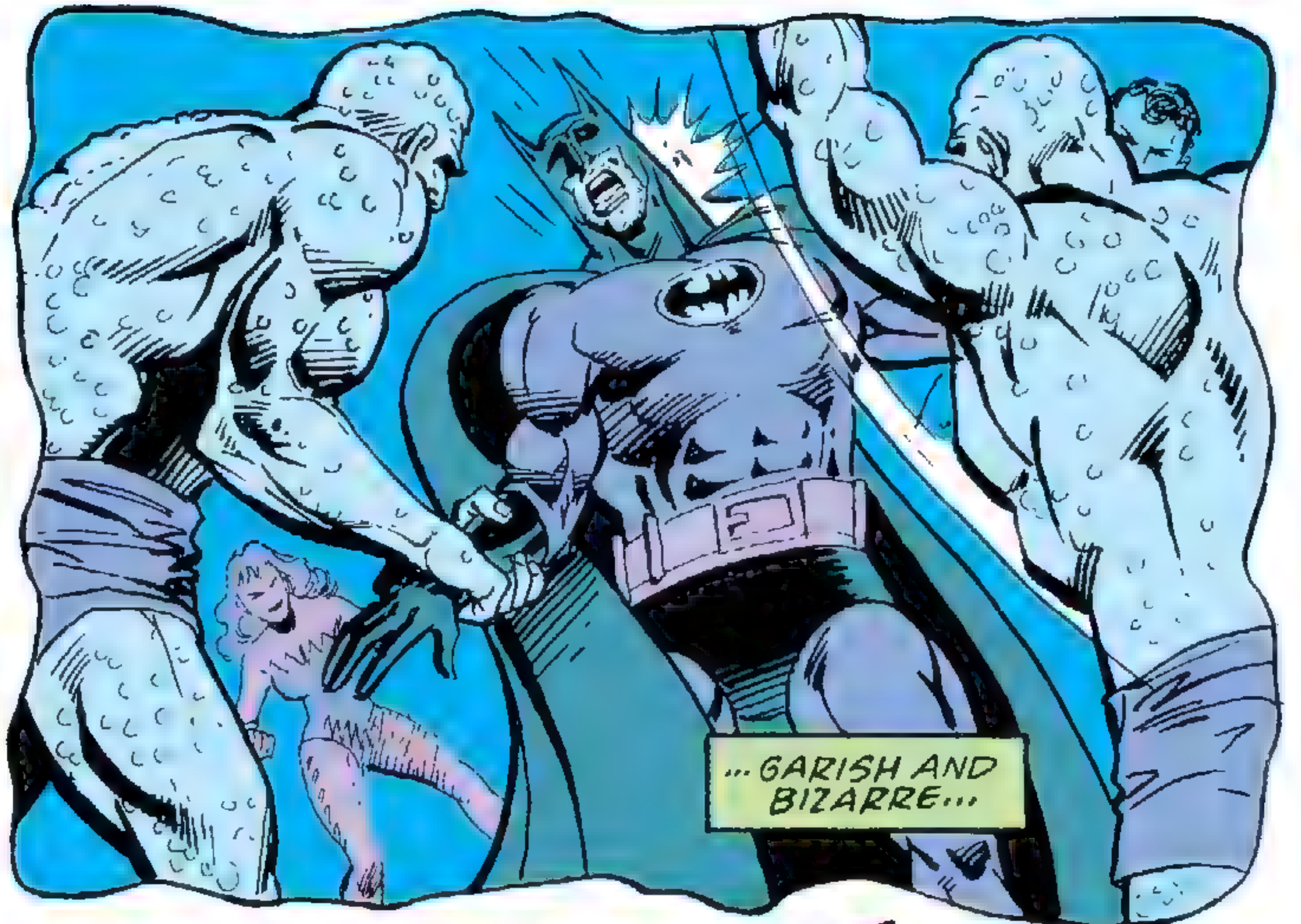
...AND  
NOWHERE.

WUWOK

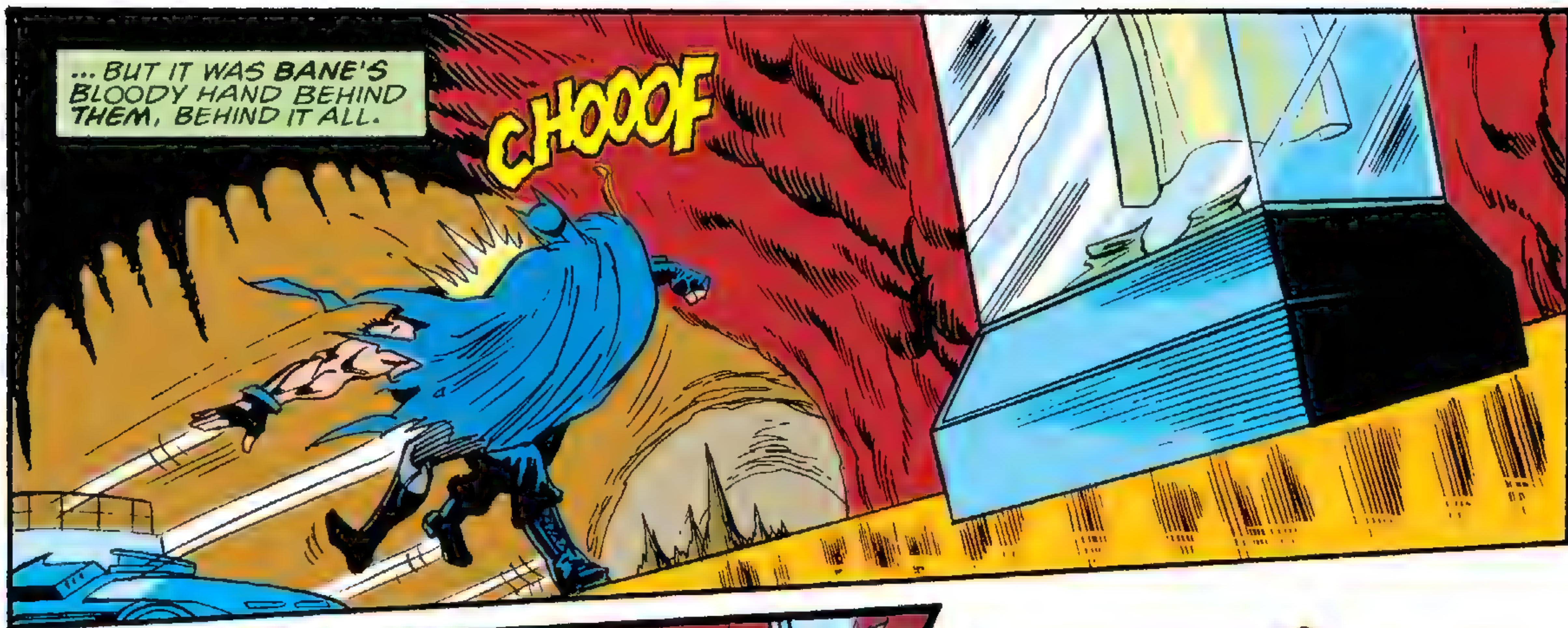




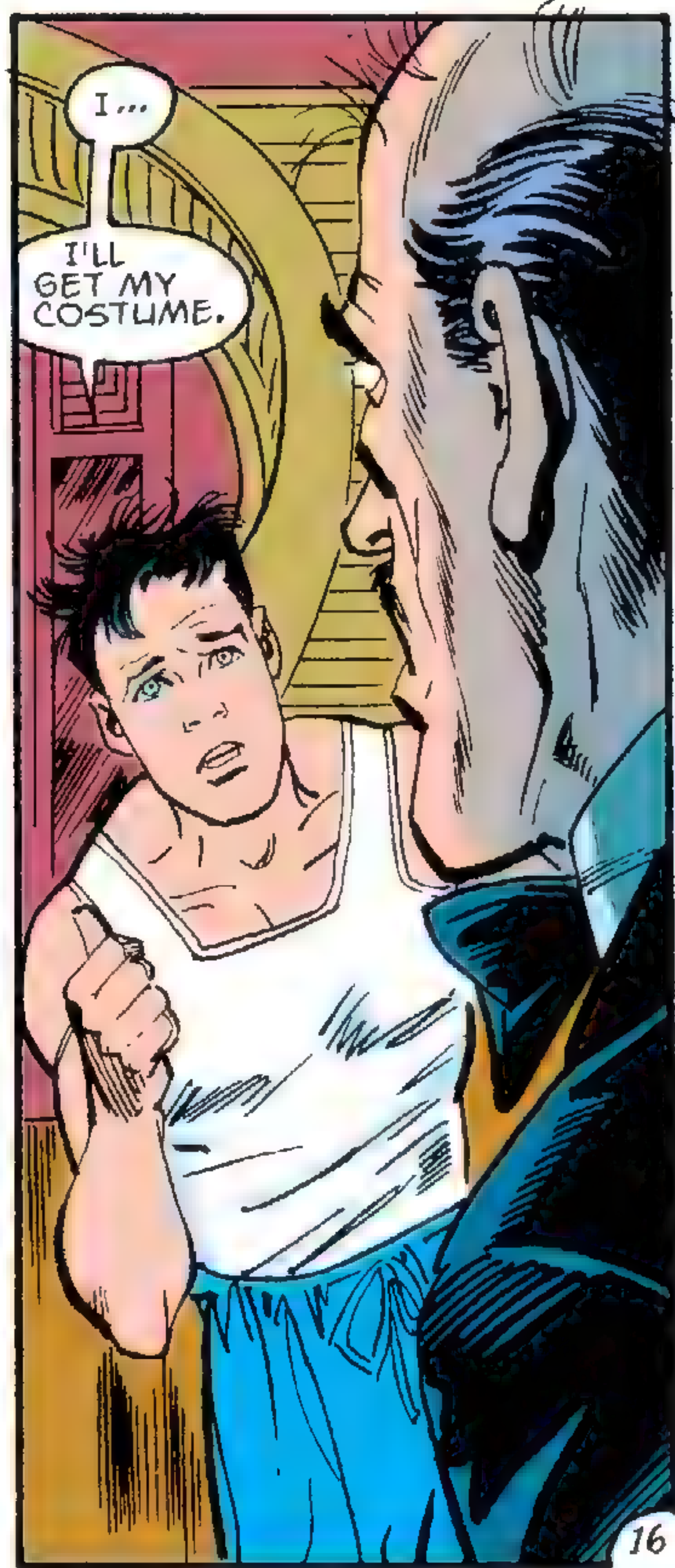
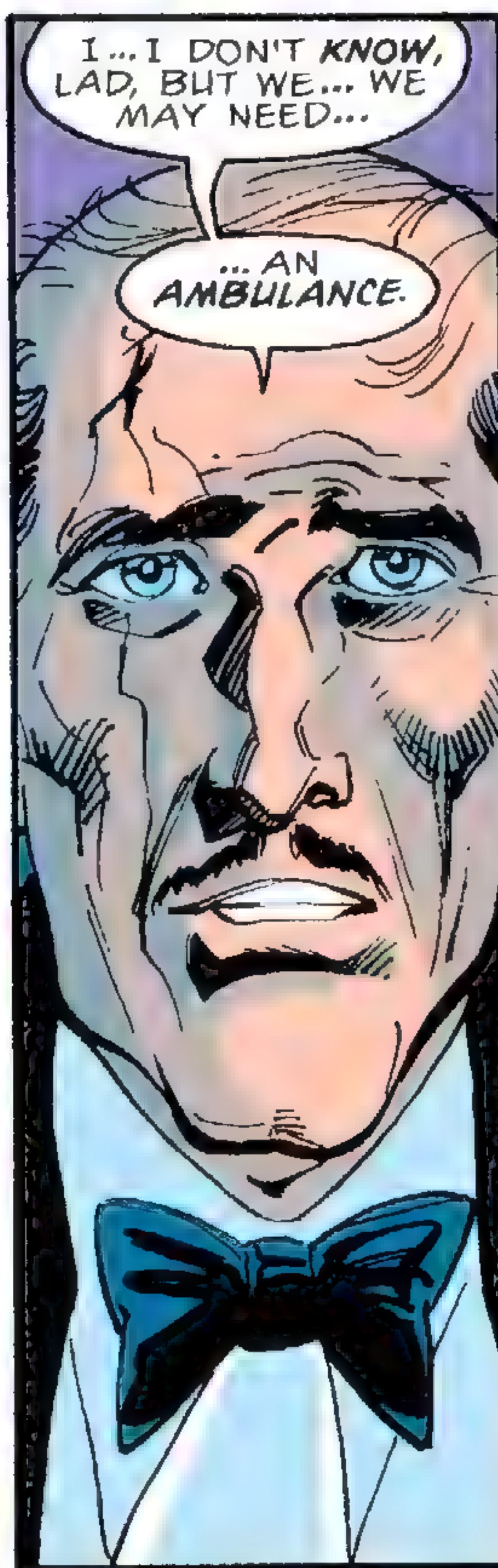
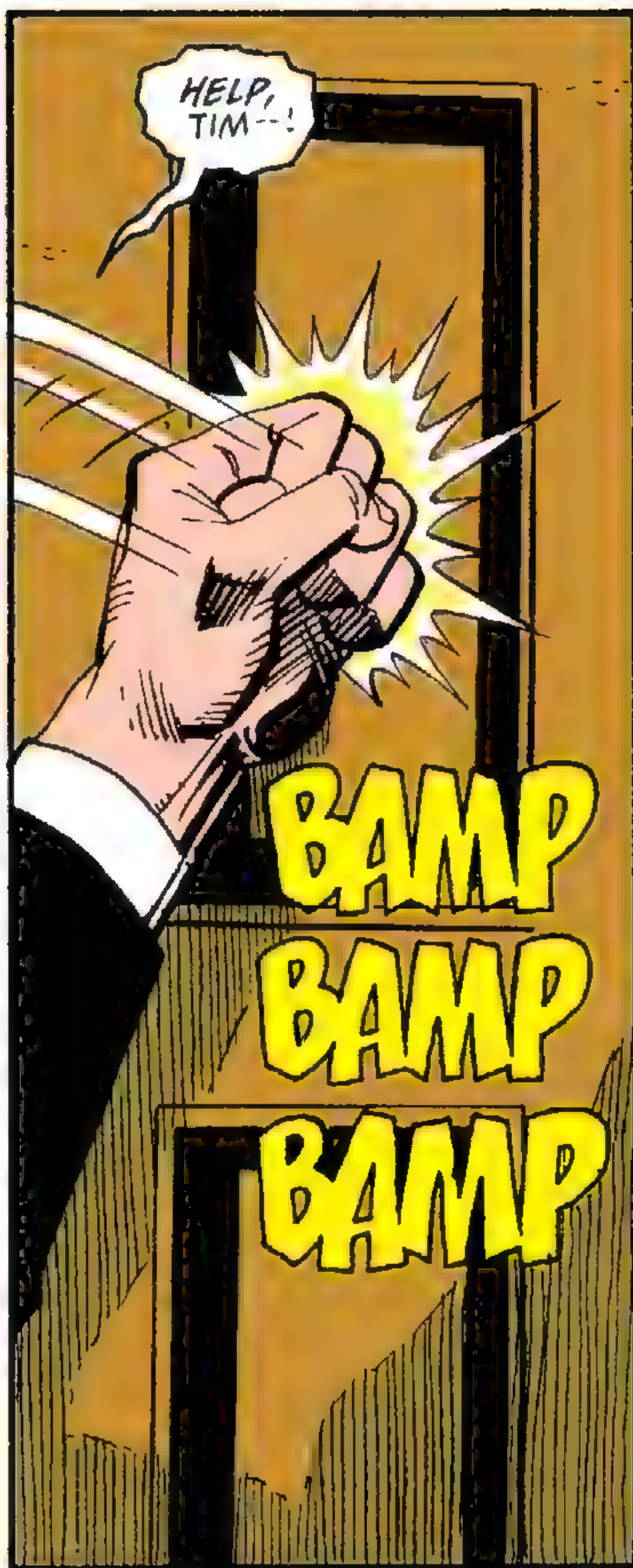




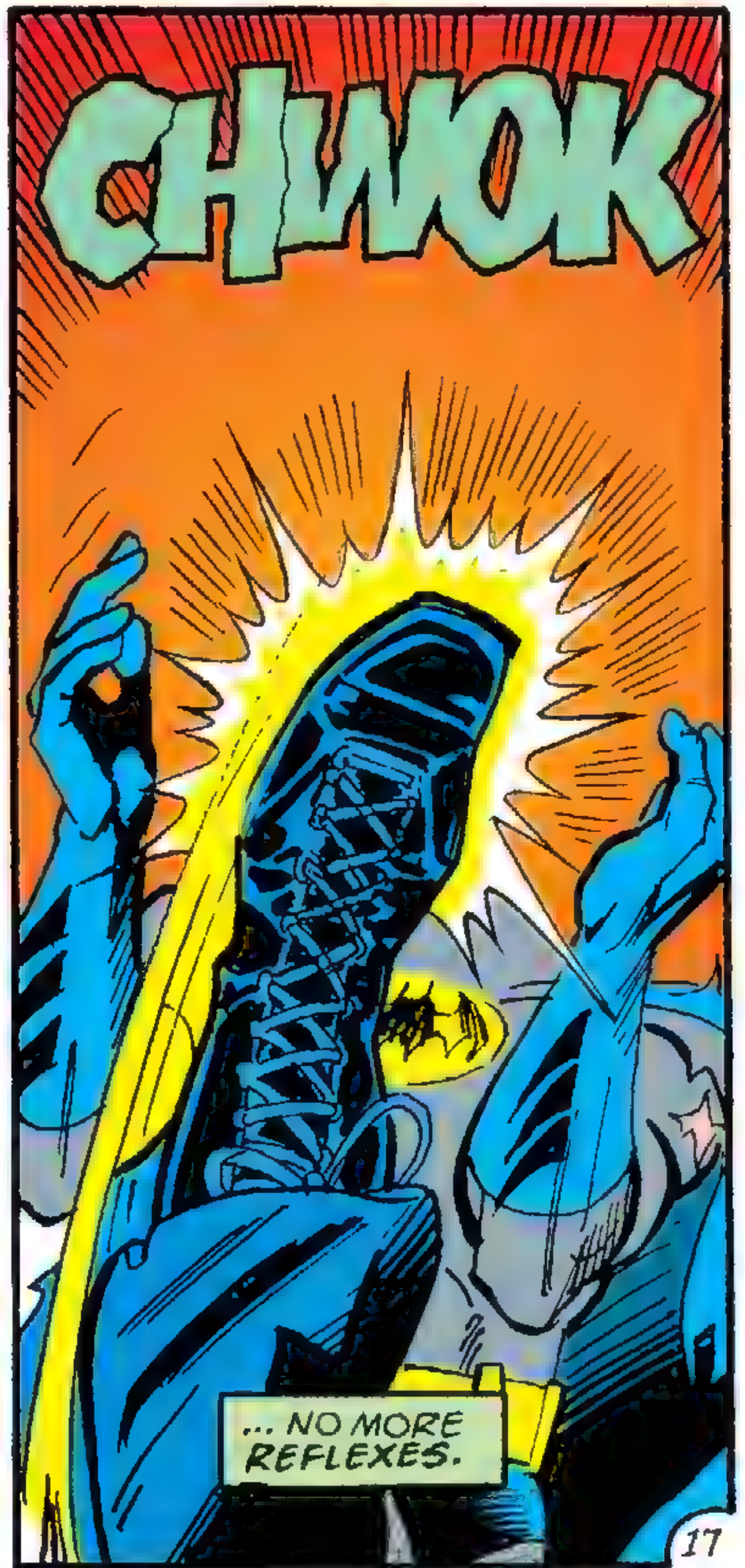
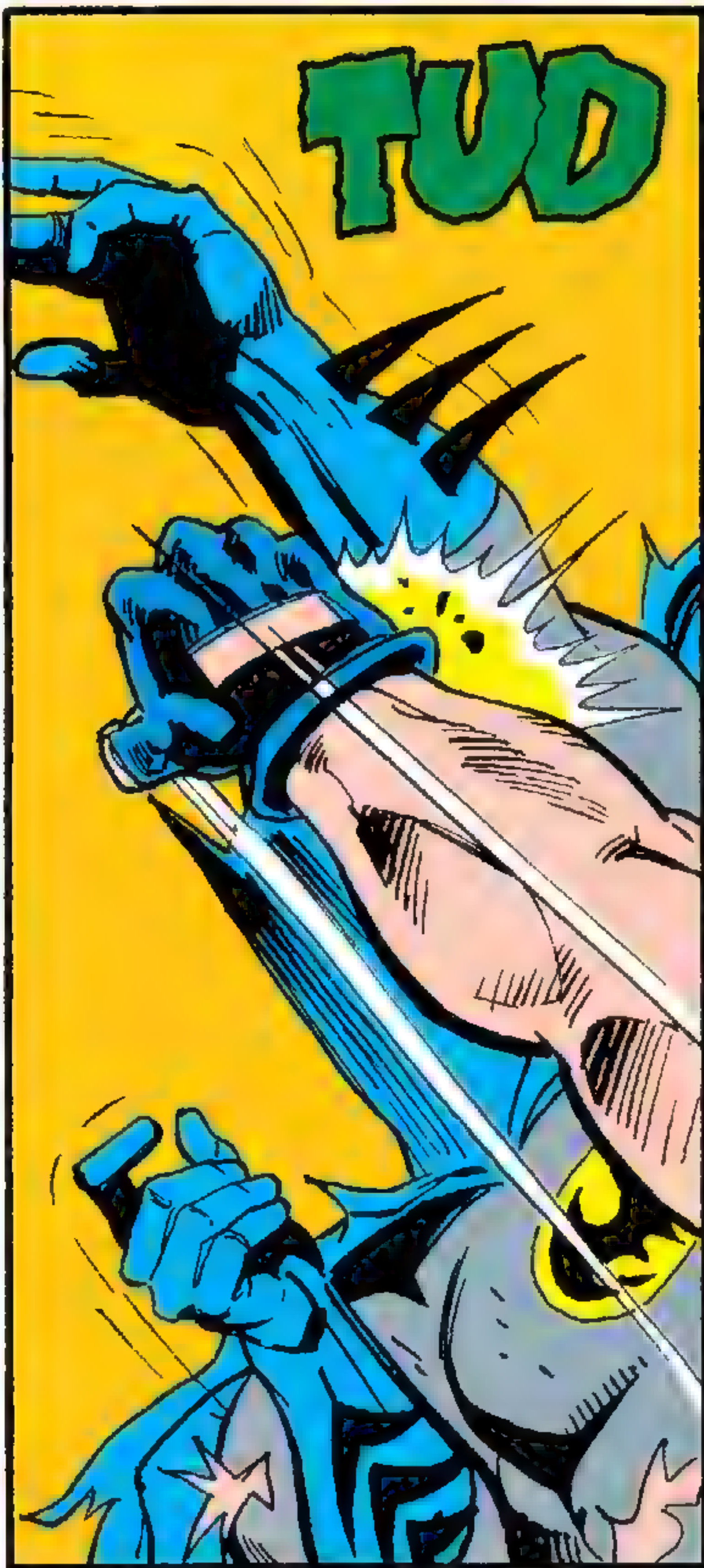
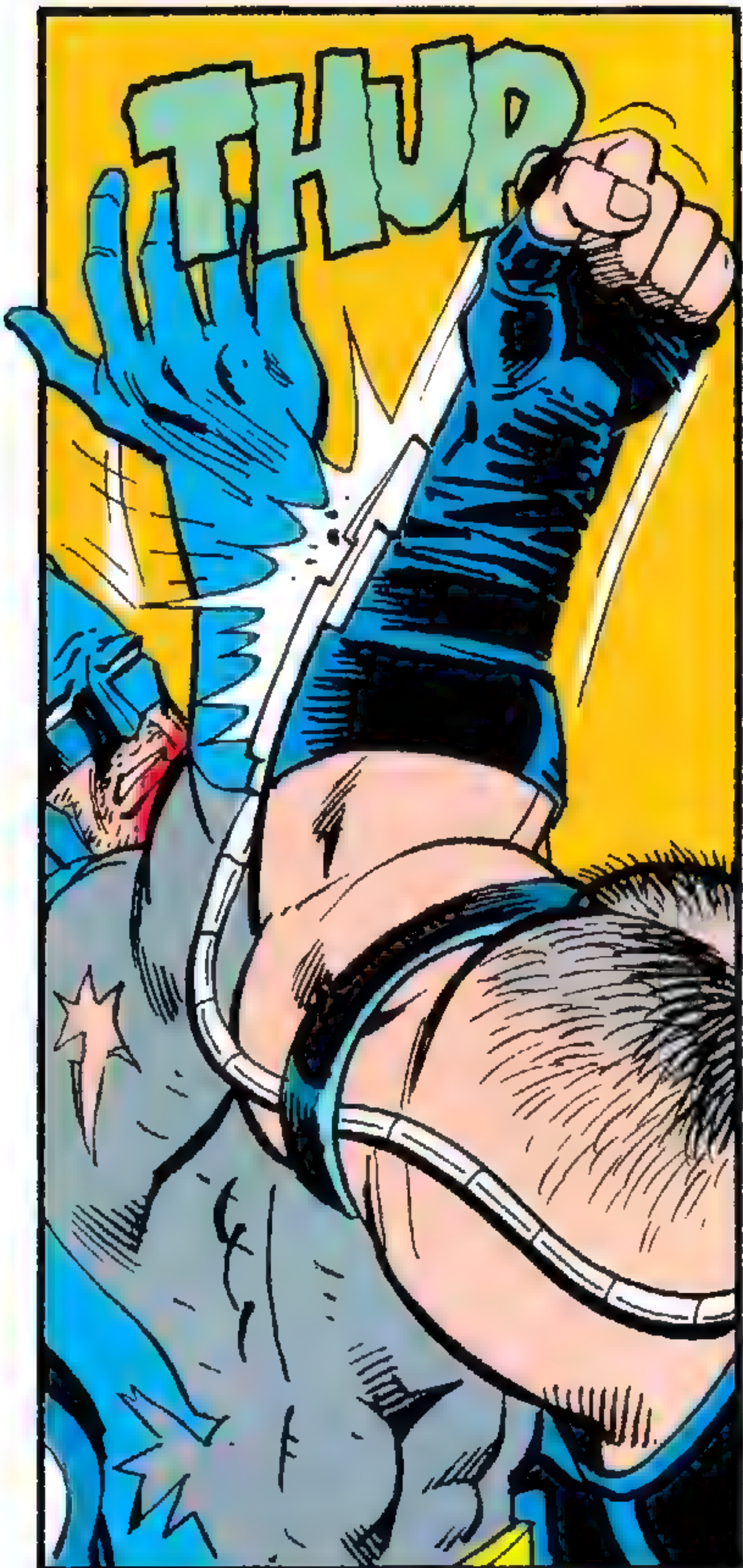
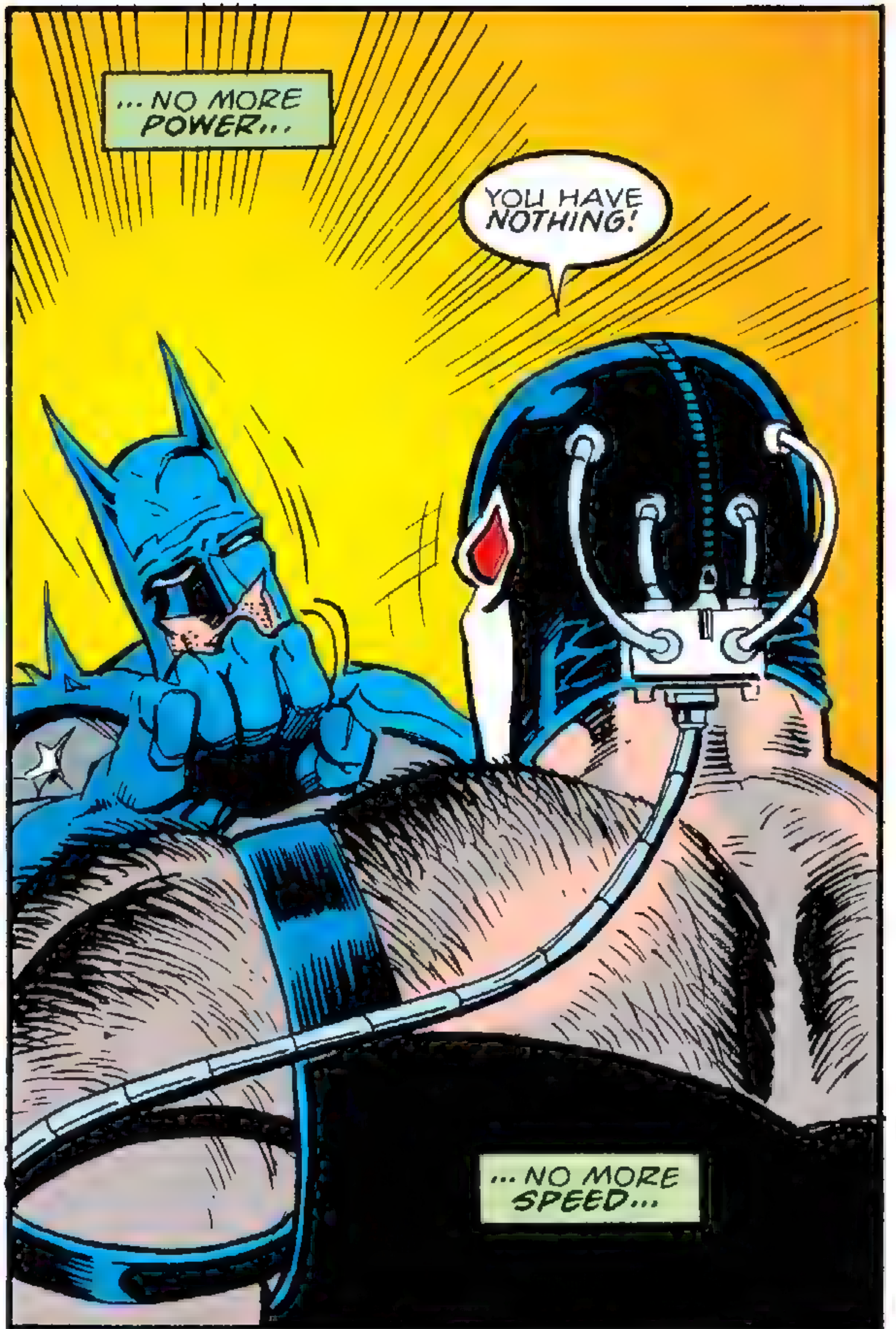
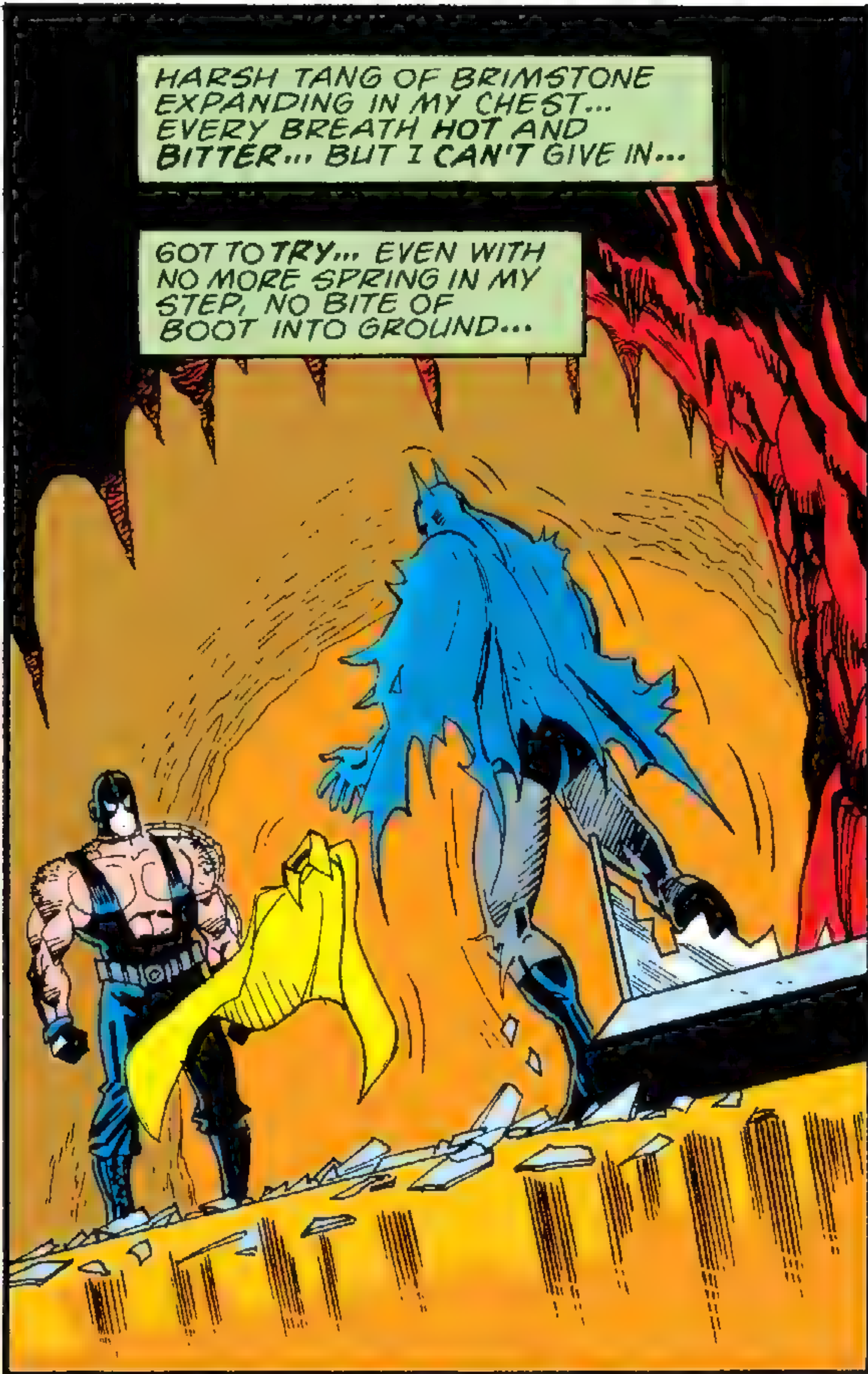




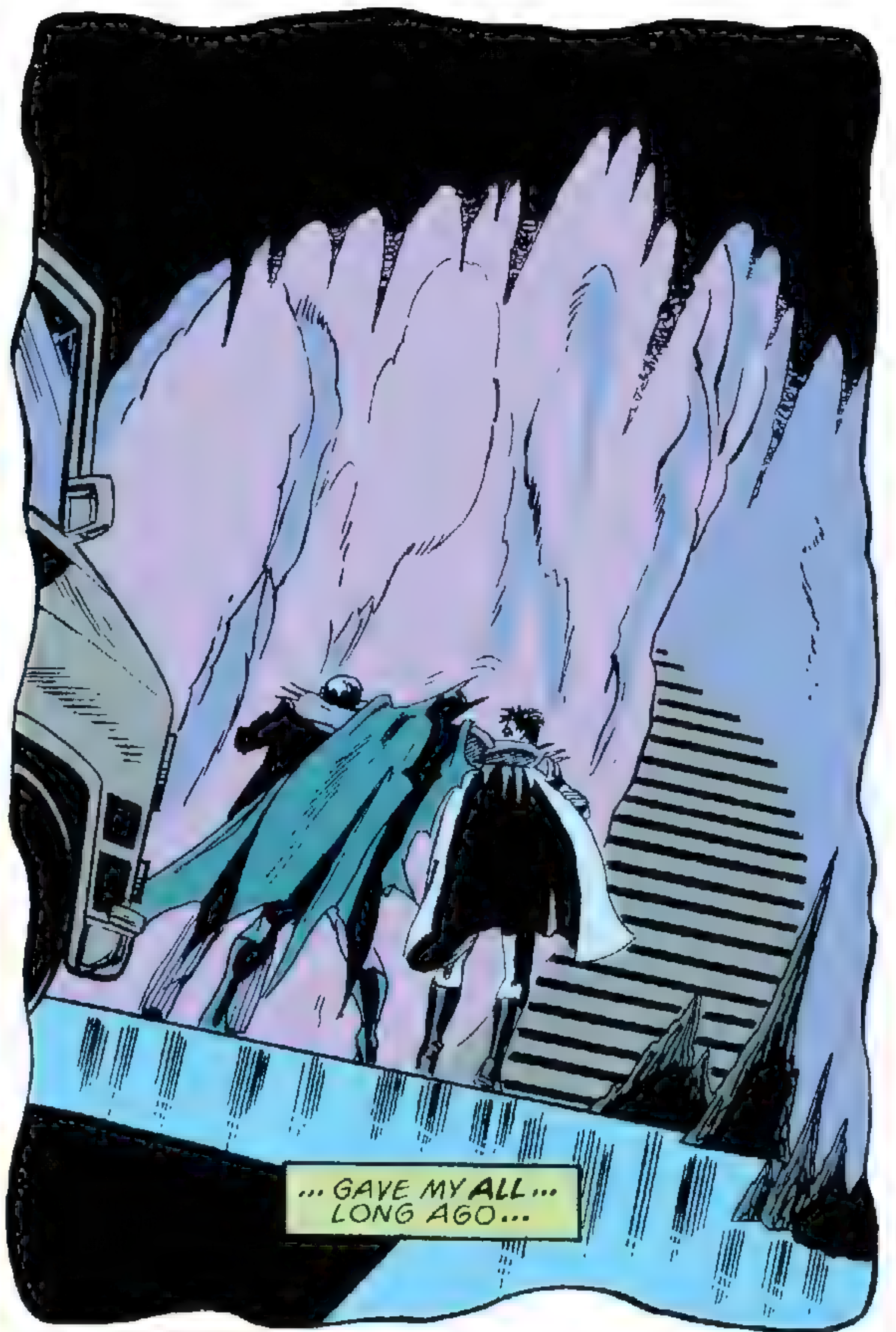
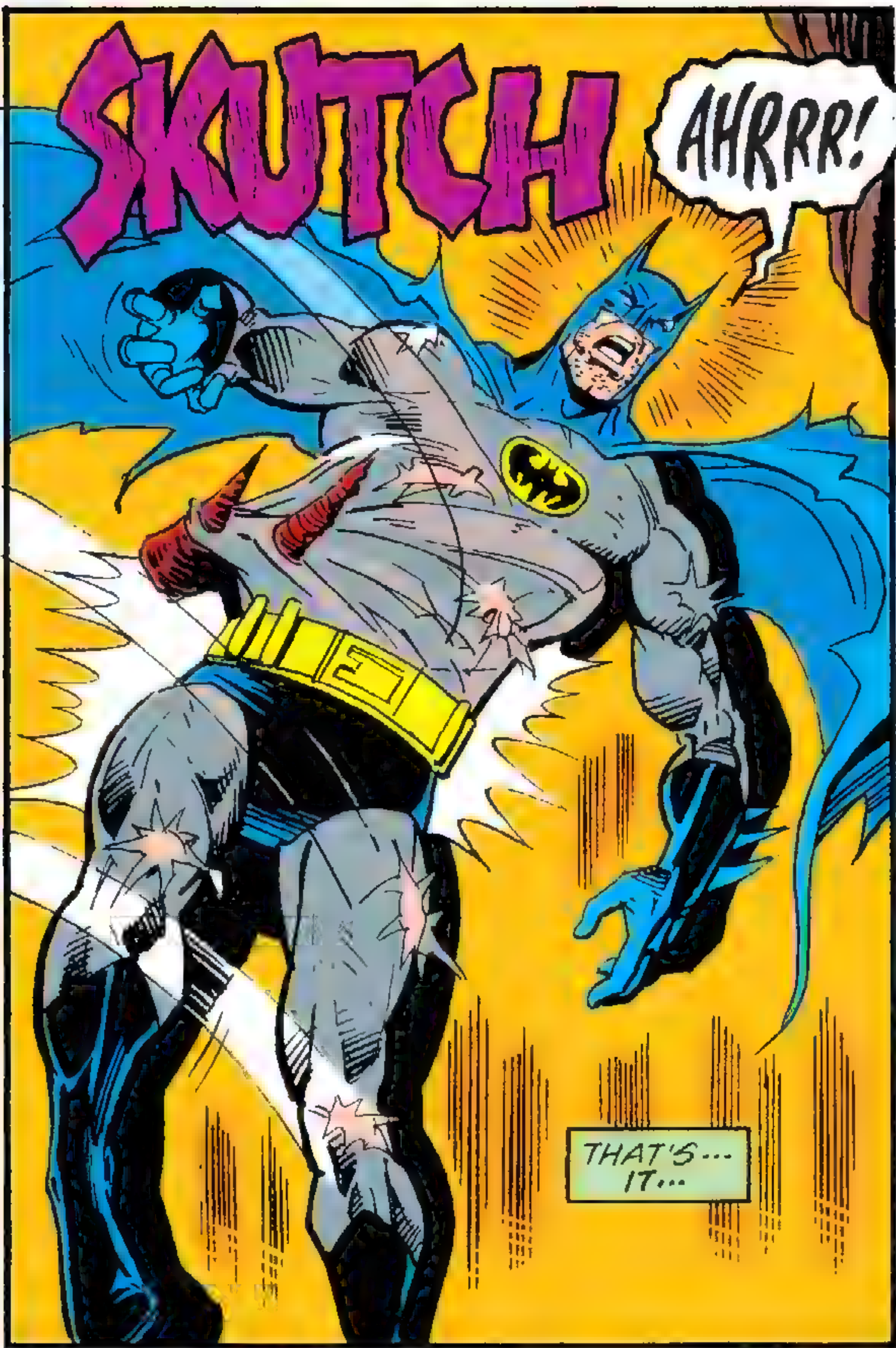




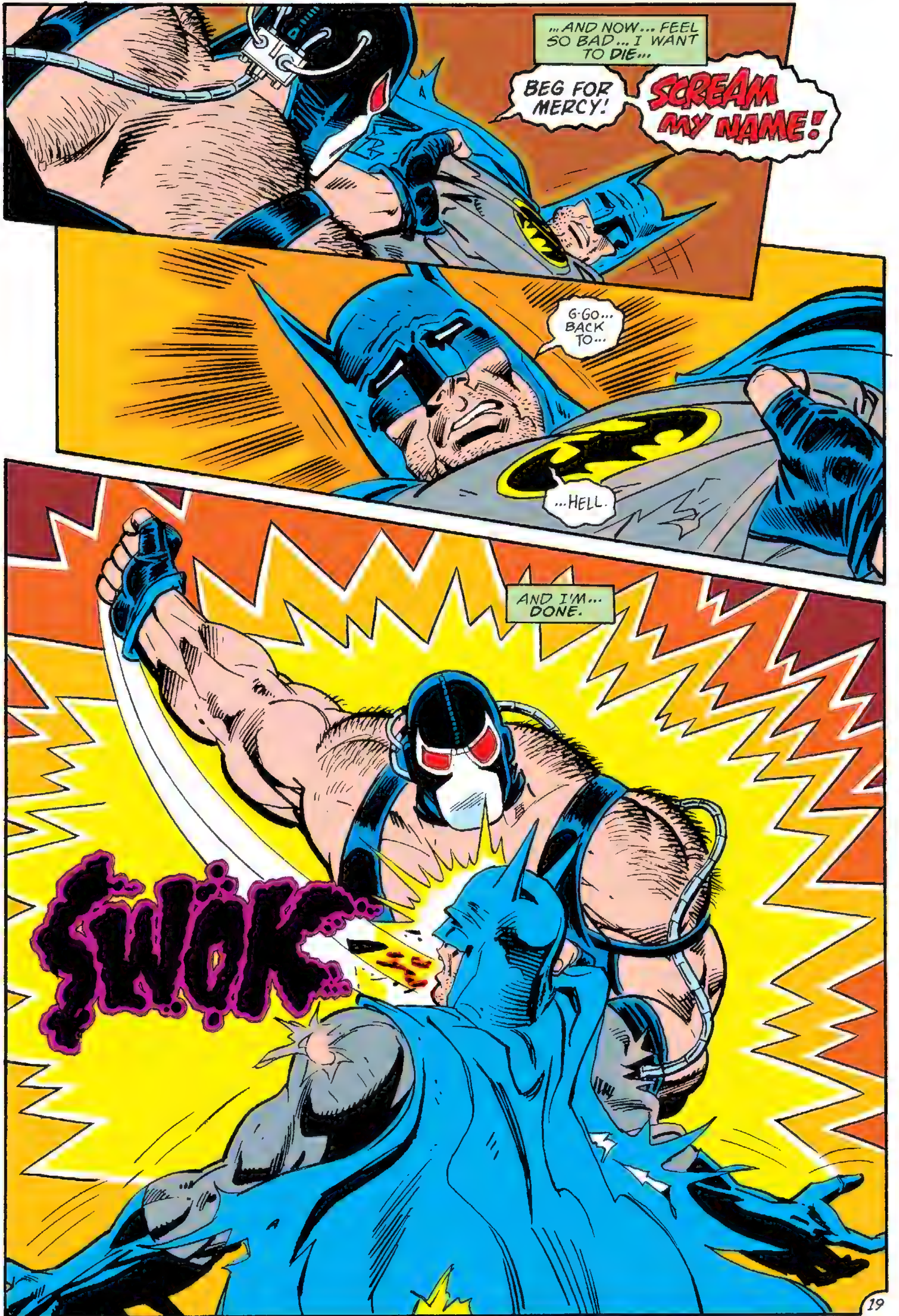
















I AM  
**BANE** --  
AND I COULD  
KILL YOU...

... BUT DEATH  
WOULD ONLY  
**END YOUR**  
AGONY -- AND  
SILENCE  
YOUR SHAME.

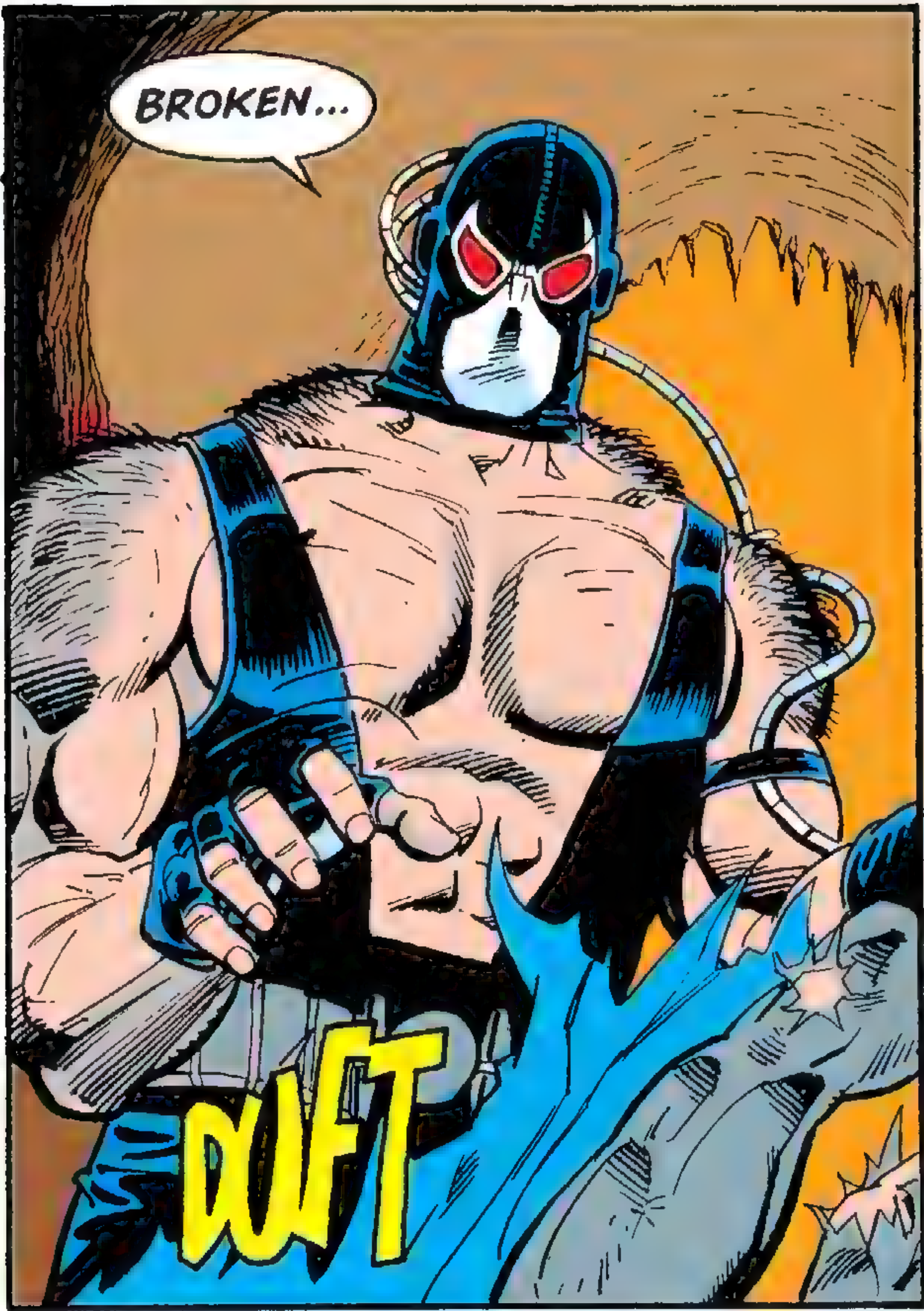
**INSTEAD,**  
I WILL  
SIMPLY...



...BREAK YOU!











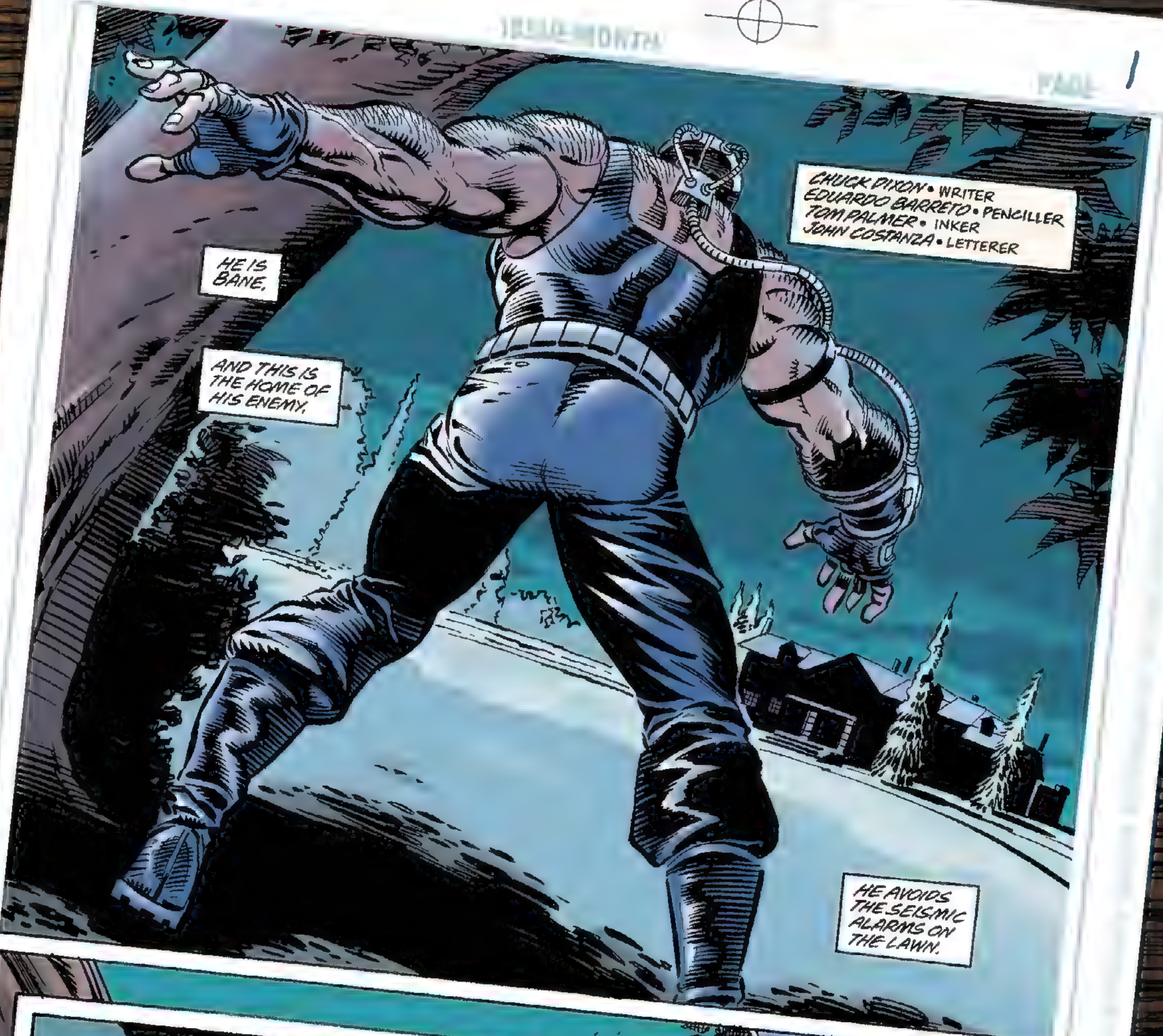


# BANE

1800-10NTPA



PAGE 1



HE IS  
BANE.

AND THIS IS  
THE HOME OF  
HIS ENEMY.

CHUCK DIXON • WRITER  
EDUARDO BARRETO • PENCILLER  
TOM PALMER • INKER  
JOHN COSTANZA • LETTERER

HE AVOIDS  
THE SEISMIC  
ALARMS ON  
THE LAWN.



AND THE MOTION  
DETECTORS ABOUT  
THE HOUSE.

THE CONTACT  
SYSTEM ON THE  
DOORS IS CHILD'S  
PLAY.

AND HE IS INSIDE.

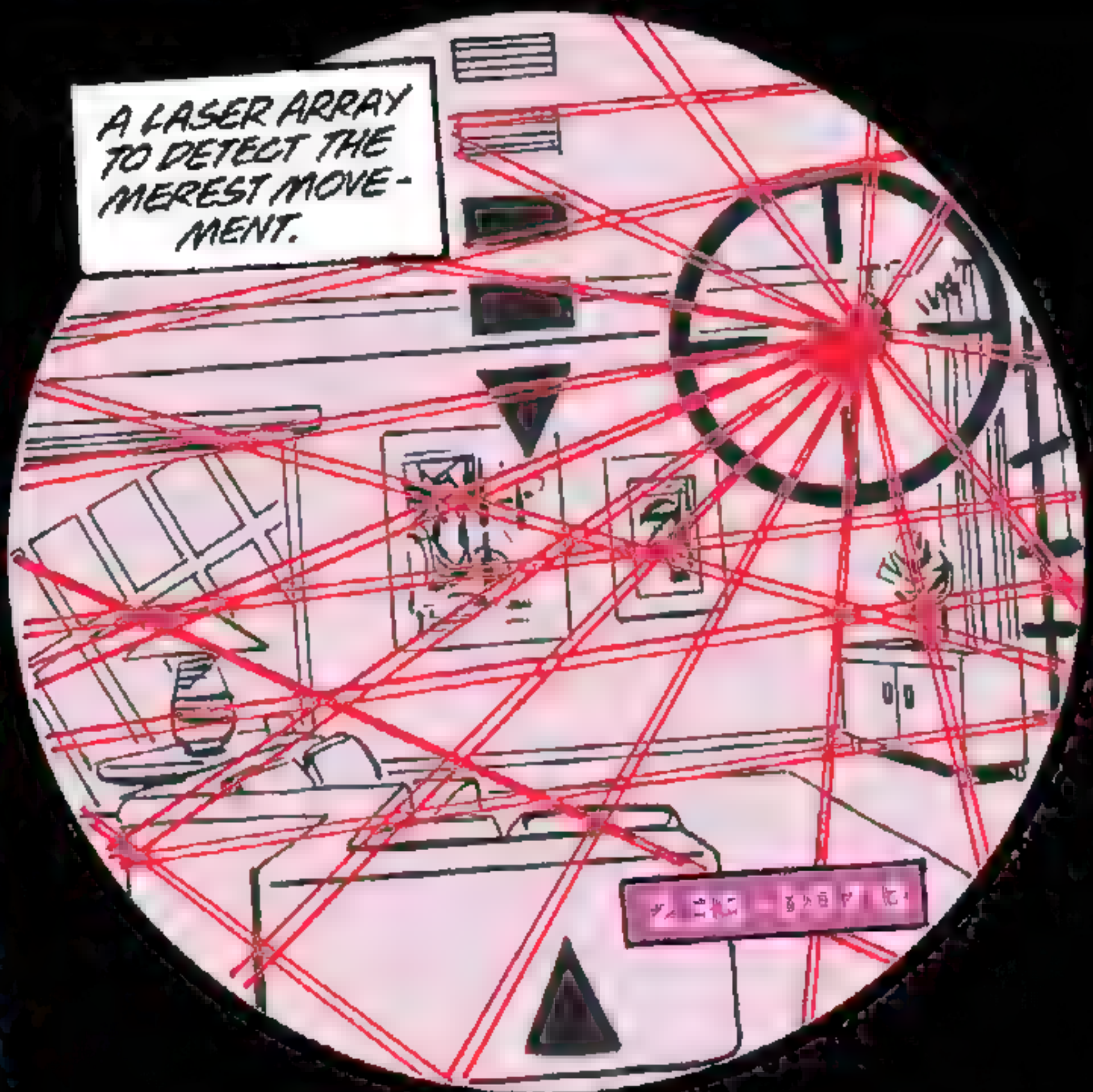


Sharpie®  
FINE POINT  
PERMANENT MARKER  
• NOT FOR LETTER WRITING OR CLOTH  
• MONTKIRK CONFORMS TO ASTM D 3558 MADE IN U.S.A.





AS HE SUSPECTED THERE ARE MORE SNARES WITHIN.



A LASER ARRAY TO DETECT THE MEREST MOVEMENT.



HE USES LIGHT TO DEFEAT LIGHT.



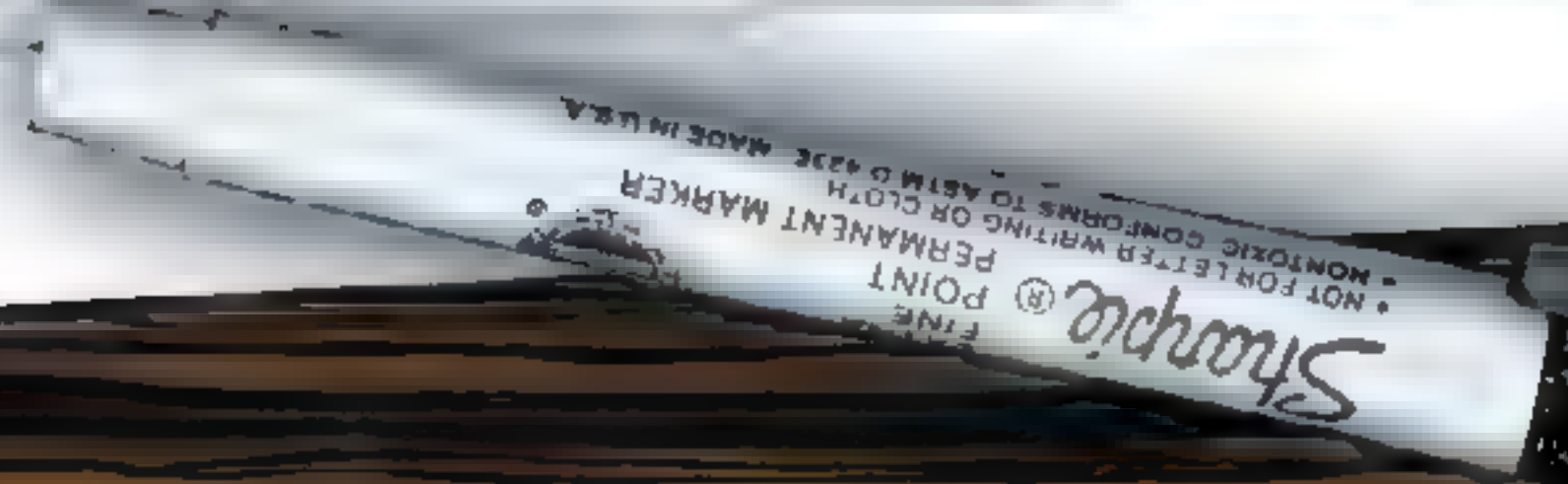
THE SYSTEM IS OVERLOADED AND SHUT DOWN.



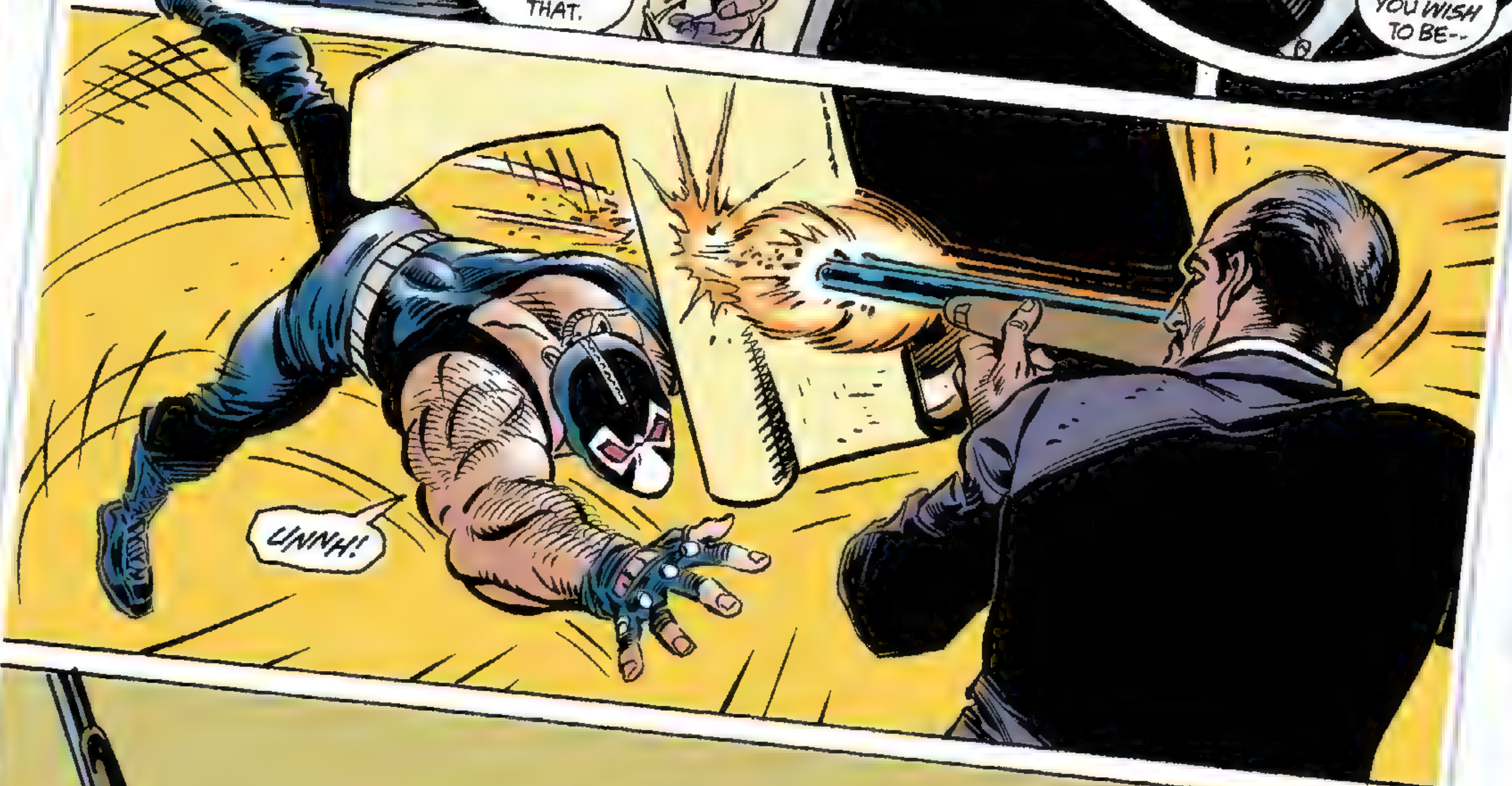
THE HOUSE IS HIS



TURN SLOWLY AND TAKE CARE TO KEEP YOUR HANDS IN SIGHT.









TITLE



Sharpie® FINE POINT PERMANENT MARKER  
\* NOT FOR LETTER WRITING OR CLOTH  
\* KRYPTONITE COMPLIES TO ASTM D-4232 MADE IN U.S.A.





THE HUNT  
IS OVER.

THE QUARRY TRAPPED  
IN HIS OWN LAIR.

NOW THE CONTEST  
BEGINS.





THE BATMAN GALLERY #1 [1992] Cover by **JOE QUESADA** and **KEVIN NOWLAN**





Wizard Magazine #24 Cover by **JOE QUESADA** and **JIMMY PALMIOTTI**  
Original Cover and Edited Version





B A T M A N



# KNIGHTFALL

PART ONE BROKEN BAT



KELLEY JONES '93





BATMAN: KNIGHTFALL VOLUME TWO  
First Edition Cover by KELLEY JONES



# BATMAN<sup>®</sup>

## KNIGHTFALL

PART ONE: BROKEN BAT



BATMAN: KNIGHTFALL PART ONE: BROKEN BAT  
Cover by MIKE DEODATO JR.





# BATMAN

## KNIGHTFALL

PART TWO: WHO RULES THE NIGHT



BATMAN: KNIGHTFALL PART TWO: WHO RULES THE NIGHT  
Cover by **MIKE DEODATO JR.**





The inmates of Arkham Asylum are loose, and Batman is in hot pursuit of the Joker, the Riddler, Poison Ivy, Killer Croc, the Scarecrow and more. Pushed to the limit, the Dark Knight comes face to face with Bane, a hyper-pumped-up monstrosity, who delivers a crippling blow that changes Batman's destiny forever.

**BATMAN: KNIGHTFALL VOL. 1** presents the epic battle between Batman and one of his greatest foes of all time: Bane. Part two of a massive nine-volume celebration of the entire "Batman: Knightfall" saga, this collection continues the story arc begun in **BATMAN: PRELUDE TO KNIGHTFALL** and collects **BATMAN** #492-497 and **DETECTIVE COMICS** #659-663, along with supplemental bonus material.

---

**BATMAN: KNIGHTFALL**  
saga includes:

BATMAN:  
PRELUDE TO KNIGHTFALL  
BATMAN: KNIGHTFALL VOL. 1  
BATMAN: KNIGHTFALL VOL. 2  
BATMAN: KNIGHTQUEST:  
THE CRUSADE VOL. 1  
BATMAN: KNIGHTQUEST:  
THE CRUSADE VOL. 2  
BATMAN: KNIGHTQUEST:  
THE SEARCH  
BATMAN: KNIGHTSEND  
BATMAN: PRODIGAL  
BATMAN: TROIKA



SON OF ULTRON

"THIS FAN...  
THIS MONSTER!"

